

Marroquín wins 'amnesty' work permit

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — In an important gain for democratic rights, Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist, was granted a six-month work authorization card while his application for residence here is processed under the "amnesty" provision of the new Immigration Reform and Control Act.

For the past decade, the government has prevented Marroquín from working and has been trying to deport him because of his membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

Marroquín said he was "jubilant" at receiving the work authorization and declared it represented a significant gain in his long fight against deportation.

He predicted it would prove a benefit to all immigrant workers and appealed to supporters of immigrant rights to redouble their efforts to ensure that he would be granted the residency the new law entitles him to.

Marroquín asked supporters to send messages to INS Commissioner Alan Nelson in Washington, D.C., urging swift, positive action on his residency.

In the early morning hours of May 5, opening day to file for legal status under the new law, Marroquín was at the door of the Immigration and Naturalization Service office set up here to receive applications.

He was number two in line. But a Palestinian immigrant who had been there since 4:30 a.m. relinquished first place to Marroquín on learning the facts of his case.

"I've been waiting for a green card for eight years," the Palestinian told a reporter. "He's been waiting 13."

The "amnesty" clause was included in the new law in a move to take some of the curse off its reactionary content. The law makes undocumented immigrants even more vulnerable to discrimination and superexploitation by making it a crime for them to hold a job here.

Those who can document that they have been here since before Jan. 1, 1982, can be granted legal status for 18 months and, after that, can apply for permanent residency.

Marroquín told reporters that under the terms of the new law, he fully qualifies. The long legal record of the government drive to deport him, he observed, is alone sufficient to establish his continuous residency since before 1982.

A student activist in Mexico, Marroquín

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Militant/Martín Koppel
Héctor Marroquín at immigration office applying for residency.

Contras shot Ben Linder 'at point-blank range'

Brother urges volunteers to Nicaragua

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We will tell the truth in every corner of the United States," declared John Linder, brother of Ben Linder, the U.S. engineer murdered by CIA-trained contras while building a hydroelectric facility in northern Nicaragua.

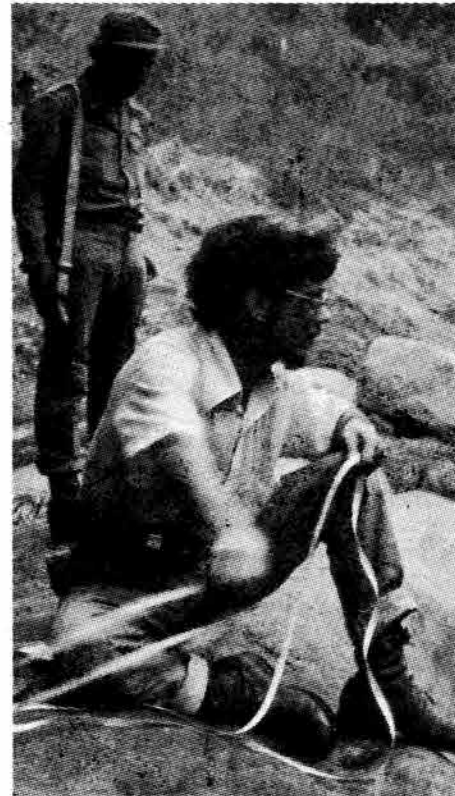
"Everything the U.S. government has told us about Nicaragua is a lie," John Linder told a May 5 news conference here. He said the Linder family is returning to the United States to speak out against Wash-

INSIDE: Nicaragua pays tribute to Linder. U.S. protests pledge more volunteers to Nicaragua. See page 2.

ington's "illegal and immoral war against Nicaragua" and to urge thousands of U.S. volunteers to come here to work on projects like the one Ben Linder was part of.

Elisabeth Linder, Ben's mother, told the news conference that the U.S. government murdered her son "for bringing electricity to a few, poor people in northern Nicaragua. He was murdered because he had a dream and because he had the courage to make that dream come true."

"We have been overwhelmed by the love and respect of the people of Nicaragua for Ben, for us, and for the people of the



Ben Linder working on a hydroelectric project before his murder by terrorists.

United States," she said. "I am grateful that Ben had this three-and-a-half years in Nicaragua."

John Linder said that in response to his brother's murder, "More Americans should do what Ben did," by coming to Nicaragua to help bring more electricity, water, class rooms, and health care to the Nicaraguan people. He reported that U.S. volunteers have already pledged to finish the project his brother was working on.

Father details U.S.-organized murder

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — U.S. engineer Ben Linder was executed by Washington's contra terrorists as he lay wounded from a grenade attack, the Linder family told a news conference here May 5.

Pledging to speak out throughout the United States against the U.S.-organized contra war, the family reported new details of Linder's murder.

He and two Nicaraguan workers were slain April 28 by a contra gang as they worked on a hydroelectric facility in northern Nicaragua. The killers first fired grenades, then moved in on the victims.

Ben Linder's father David, a pathologist from Portland, Oregon, told reporters he met with the Nicaraguan doctor who performed the autopsies.

"The examining physician and I agree that Benjamin was first immobilized by [grenade] injuries to his legs and arms," Linder told the news conference. "He was then killed by a gunshot wound to the head. The powder burns suggest that he was shot at very close range, possibly two feet or less away."

"What I am telling you is that they blew his brains out at point-blank range as he lay wounded."

Pablo Rosales, one of the Nicaraguans slain in the attack, was also only wounded in the initial grenade assault. He was then killed when the contras stabbed him in the chest, Linder said.

Strike protests apartheid elections

BY ERNEST HARSCH

As white voters were going to the polls in South Africa May 6, some 1.5 million Blacks were casting their votes against apartheid by taking part in a national labor and student strike.

Long denied the right to vote, such action was the only way the country's Black majority could express its political views.

The two-day strike, which began May 5, was called to protest the whites-only character of the election. Supporting the action were many labor and anti-apartheid groups, including the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the United Democratic Front (UDF), which have been in the forefront of the massive mobilizations of the past few years.

The strike was the biggest anti-apartheid demonstration since the regime imposed a state of emergency 11 months ago. In some parts of the country, such as the Eastern Cape, the walkout was total.

"This election has nothing to do with us," one Black worker in Tembisa told a reporter. "That's what the people are saying by not going to work today."

In most Black townships around the country, students boycotted classes. Students at the predominantly white universities in Cape Town and Johannesburg also shut down their schools.

In Soweto, the huge Black township outside Johannesburg, the *Sowetan* newspaper conducted a mock election. Its largely Black readership voted overwhelmingly for leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle. Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress, came in

first, followed by Oliver Tambo, the ANC's exiled president. Desmond Tutu, a prominent anti-apartheid spokesperson and church figure, was third.

In the election results for the white parliament, early returns showed President Pieter Botha's governing National Party retaining its solid majority. The liberal Progressive Federal Party appeared to have lost a few seats, while the far-right Conservative Party picked up a few.

New stage in U.S. gov't crisis

BY FRED FELDMAN

The widespread indignation throughout the United States against the killing of Ben Linder by Nicaraguan contras has coincided with the opening of congressional hearings on the Reagan administration's secret dealings with Iran and arms shipments to the contras.

These events mark a new stage in the deepening crisis that has gripped the U.S. government since the covert operations were made public last fall. And they are dealing new blows to the dirty war that Washington has been waging against the people of Nicaragua.

Millions of working people have been moved by the glaring contrast between Linder's dedication to helping Nicaraguan villagers and the brutality and corruption of Washington's contra war.

The initial response of administration officials and editors of many major newspapers, which was to apologize for the assass-

But, declared Winnie Mandela, the national protest strike was "a barometer with which the government should measure what their real opposition is. . . . It is the Black nation."

UDF leader Murphy Morobe made a similar point, stating that the strike showed the government that "when they return to power on May 7, they will find us more determined and more united against apartheid and National Party rule."

sins, was so far out of whack with this mood that they rapidly retreated.

When the murder became known April 28, presidential spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater said that U.S. volunteers in Nicaragua "put themselves in harm's way." But Vice-president George Bush was soon praising volunteers and claiming that he did not object to their work in Nicaragua.

The April 29 *New York Times* sought to give credence to the idea that work crews such as the one Linder participated in are "part of the Sandinistas' defense structure" and that Linder may have been armed and was thus supposedly fair game for contra hit men. By May 6, however, the *Times* was sympathetically describing the mourning for the slain volunteer in the village of El Cuá where, in addition to his contributions as an engineer, he had often entertained residents as a clown.

The May 6 report conceded that Linder

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U.S. protests hit murder of Ben Linder

Activists urge more volunteers to join Nicaragua work brigades

BY NORTON SANDLER

Protests have been held around the country in the aftermath of Ben Linder's murder by U.S. government-backed contras in northern Nicaragua.

The actions have demanded an end to the U.S.-run contra war and called for more U.S. volunteers to go to Nicaragua to aid the revolution.

'Ben Linder Volunteer Campaign'

In Los Angeles 300 people turned out on short notice for a May 2 protest and memorial meeting for Linder held at the Federal Building.

The Nicaraguan Task Force and other Los Angeles-area Nicaragua solidarity organizations have announced the formation of a "Ben Linder Volunteer Campaign."

"We feel that the assassination of Ben Linder won't in any way deter our work, and instead of sending 100 down to Nicaragua this year, we're going to send 200 people down," Stephen Kerpen from Architects and Planners in Support of Nicaragua told the media in Los Angeles following Linder's death.

Michael Urmman, executive director of TechNica, said that his group is organizing 15 volunteers to work on repairing steam boilers, setting up a sewage system, and helping to operate a machine shop in Nicaragua.

Debra Reuben, a leader of the Nicaragua Network, enthusiastically reported to 200 activists at a May 3 meeting in Washington, D.C., that solidarity groups in the Los Angeles area pledged to double the number of volunteers going to Nicaragua on work brigades.

Carlos Tunnermann, Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States, told the D.C. meeting that Ben Linder's position on the electrification project had already been filled by another U.S. volunteer.

Noting that Linder joins the thousands of Nicaraguans who have been killed by the U.S.-backed aggression, Tunnermann said, "Ben Linder represents the best of North America. How many more must die? When will peace and justice come?"

Many at the Washington meeting had, like Linder, spent time in Nicaragua working as internationalist volunteers.

San Francisco protest

A procession in San Francisco marched from the Federal Building to the Herbst Theater. Many carried a silk-screen poster reading, "Ben Linder presente."

Several speakers recounted experiences they had shared with Linder in Nicaragua.

"Ben was murdered by the government of the United States, which arms, trains, and finances the contras," said a statement from the Linder family read to the meeting.

Guadalupe Martínez of the Nicaraguan organization Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs also spoke.

The 1,000-seat theater was filled to capacity, and a few hundred more remained outside.

Participants included circus performers who had entertained in Nicaragua. Linder — a juggler, circus clown, and unicyclist — had helped arrange their tour there.

In Portland, Oregon, Linder's hometown, 1,500 participated in the largest antiwar action there in years the night after the murder. Portland activists are circulating a petition demanding an end to the contra war and are collecting money for projects in Nicaragua.

An article in Portland's daily paper, *The Oregonian*, on May 1 gave information on groups that arrange for volunteers to go to Nicaragua. Tom Vorhees of the Nicaraguan Appropriate Technology Project told *The Oregonian*, "We intend to replace Ben inasmuch as it's possible to replace him." Vorhees also said the contras had failed to intimidate volunteers from going to Nicaragua.

The Pacific Northwest Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union has sent a message to Washington protesting the U.S. government's role in Linder's death and demanding an end to the war.

Chanting "U.S., CIA out of Nicaragua," "CIA murdered Ben, we won't let it happen again," and "Murder, rape, torture, lies, that's what contra money buys," 200 students at the University of Washington in Seattle marched through campus May 1. The students demanded that CIA recruiters leave the university.

More than 100 participated in a protest in Atlanta May 3. Atlanta Mayor Andrew



Militant/Janet Post

Portland demonstration protesting Linder murder was attended by 1,500. It was largest antiwar action in that city in years.

Young spoke at the event. He compared Linder with volunteers who had worked in the South during the civil rights movement. The following day, Atlanta activists demonstrated at the office of U.S. Congressman Patrick Swindall, a contra backer.

In New York 300 joined a spirited protest at Federal Plaza April 30.

Carrying signs that read, "USA, CIA, out of Nicaragua," 150 picketed the same

day in Boston.

A San Diego protest, also on April 30, was attended by 45 activists. It drew a friendly response from several sailors who passed by.

This article is based on reports from Ike Nahem, Betsey Stone, Anibal Yáñez, Mari Hawkes, Ethel Lobman, Maria Quinones, Steven Bograd, and Lisa Hickler.

Ortega speaks at Linder's funeral

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Immediately after U.S.-trained contras murdered Ben Linder, his family flew here from the United States to join tens of thousands of Nicaraguans in tributes to his life and work.

The 27-year-old Linder had worked as an engineer in Nicaragua for three and a half years, building hydroelectric plants for remote farming communities. He and two Nicaraguan workers were gunned down by terrorists organized by the U.S. government April 28.

On April 30, Linder was buried in the northern city of Matagalpa. More than 1,000 people attended the funeral and many more lined the streets as the procession passed by.

Members of the Linder family marched arm-in-arm with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Rosario Murillo, head of the Sandinista Association of Cultural Work-

ers.

Among those carrying Linder's coffin were other U.S. volunteers in Nicaragua, many of them working in zones also threatened by contra attacks.

U.S. citizens working here have vowed that they will not be intimidated by the murder of Linder and will continue their efforts in projects to help Nicaragua.

'The people of Ben Linder'

A group of Nicaraguan women who themselves had lost sons or daughters to the U.S.-organized mercenaries carried a hand-lettered placard that read: "The U.S. people are not the people of Reagan. They are the people of Benjamin Linder."

The march was solemn but not mournful. Many marchers were young, and Sandinista youth led spirited chants of "Throughout the continent, Benjamin Linder's presence is felt!"

Several Nicaraguans paraded dressed as clowns and others performed juggling acts

during the march. Ben Linder had also been a talented clown and once worked for the Nicaraguan national circus.

Friends recalled one national measles vaccination day when Linder dressed as a clown and led hundreds of cheering, laughing children to the health clinic chanting "Death to measles! Death to measles!"

'Symbolized U.S. solidarity'

When the procession reached the entrance of the cemetery, Ortega presented Elisabeth Linder, Ben's mother, with the José Benito Escobar medal. This is the highest award given to Nicaraguan workers who make outstanding contributions to production and economic development.

The official decree posthumously awarding Ben Linder the medal declared that he "symbolized the active and militant solidarity of the U.S. people with the people of Nicaragua."

Ortega then told the crowd that Linder

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The *Militant* is written in the interests of workers and farmers. Every week it tells the truth about the war Washington and the employers are waging against working people at home and abroad. We provide first-hand coverage of events in other countries, such as Cuba, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. In addition, regular on-the-scene reports come from our Nicaragua Bureau.

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El Salvador May Day march draws thousands

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Thousands of workers gathered here in the Reloj de Flores plaza here for a May Day march and protest.

The plaza was filled with banners representing the many unions that are part of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), the federation sponsoring the march.

Other young people moved through the plaza putting up union posters and posters from Co-Madre, an organization demanding that the government account for those who have disappeared at the hands of the government and right-wing death squads.

A helicopter flew overhead. The crowd saw soldiers inside taking pictures, and the whole plaza began chanting, "¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!" (the people united will never be defeated!) No other military or police were in sight.

Dozens of international guests were near the front of the march when it stepped off. One group of North Americans carried a banner denouncing U.S. intervention in Central America. Another group representing postal workers from many parts of the United States carried a banner saying, "No U.S. intervention — workers solidarity." This group, called Postal Workers for Peace, was followed by several Italian, Brazilian, and Swiss unionists.

Contingents of students and community organizations also joined in. A large banner hanging over the street read, "For the right to work, everyone to the struggle." It was signed by the workers of the national lottery.

We entered Parque Libertad (Liberty Park), across from a large church that had been condemned because of damage suffered in last year's earthquake. Young militants quickly climbed the several-story building and hung dozens of union banners from it.

By now several thousand people had gathered at the park for one of the four May Day rallies held around the country. Thousands more marched in Santa Ana, San Miguel, and Usulután.

Building brigades to Nicaragua to be focus of YSA convention

BY MALIK MIAH

Defense of the Nicaraguan revolution against U.S.-backed aggression, and defense of the political rights of U.S. working people and students, will be the centerpiece of the upcoming national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The YSA, a national organization of young workers and students, will use its convention to urge U.S. youth to emulate the example of volunteer Ben Linder, who was murdered by contras, by participating in a work brigade to Nicaragua in the coming months. The possibility and necessity for thousands of U.S. workers and students to take Linder's place will be the theme of a public rally at the three-day gathering.

All those interested in being part of the fight against war, racism, sexism, and political repression are invited to the convention.

It will be held May 23-25 at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. Registration begins Friday, May 22; the convention opens at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and will close at 6:00 p.m. on Monday.

The Political Rights Defense Fund will sponsor a public meeting Saturday evening to focus on defense of political and democratic rights.

Héctor Marroquín will be a featured speaker. Marroquín recently won a temporary work permit — an important victory in his decade-long fight against the Immigration and Naturalization Service's attempts to deport him because of his membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

The rally will also hear speakers on the fight to prevent Attorney General Edwin Meese from letting the FBI, CIA, and other government agencies use millions of illegally obtained spy files to harass and violate the rights of SWP and YSA members, supporters, and friends.

The convention agenda will include three political reports given by YSA national leaders: "Communism Today and

The turnout was especially significant considering the massive government campaign to violence-bait the action in the newspapers and on TV and radio. The government claimed the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front planned violent attacks at different points along the march route.

The violence that did occur on May 1 came from the government of José Napoleón Duarte. The body of a disappeared peasant leader was found on April 30, and in Usulután another peasant leader was kidnapped on May 1.

Several speakers from the UNTS spoke at the demonstration, including Febe Velásquez from the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers Unions and Marco Tulia Lima, head of International and National Relations for the UNTS.

These speakers demanded the replacement of the Duarte government with a new government really representative of the Salvadoran people. They called for a genuine land reform; a halt to austerity measures, which have meant a large increase in prices; and an end to political repression.

They also demanded an end to Washington's intervention in El Salvador and condemned the role the American Institute for Free Labor Development is playing here. AIFLD is the AFL-CIO-sponsored organization that works closely with the CIA in



Militant/Don Gurewitz

March organized by National Union of Salvadoran Workers in November 1986

Latin America and around the world.

Two North Americans spoke, including Bill Rayson from Postal Workers for Peace. Rayson denounced Washington's backing for the Salvadoran regime and demanded that AIFLD leave El Salvador immediately.

One of the largest ovations of the day came when he reported that 200,000

people had marched in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco on April 25 against the U.S. war in Central America.

Ernest Mailhot is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 702 in Miami and visited El Salvador and Nicaragua with the Postal Workers for Peace tour.

Internat'l support to April 25 marches

The following solidarity message was sent to the April 25 antiwar, anti-apartheid demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco by the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean.

Founded in 1984, the coalition includes more than 30 parties from some 20 countries in the Spanish-, English-, French-, and Dutch-speaking Caribbean and Central America. Rafael "Fafa" Taveras, president of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations, is general secretary of the Socialist Bloc of the Dominican Republic.

tary of the Socialist Bloc of the Dominican Republic.

The Caribbean and Central America, victims of continuing aggression but united in their struggle for independence and sovereignty, salute this trench of solidarity in the heart of the imperialist monster.

The Caribbean and Central America — with the oldest colonial presence in Puerto Rico, Martinique and Guadeloupe, the Virgin Islands, and the Dutch West Indies; with colonial enclaves in Panama, Guantánamo, and Honduras; and dozens of military bases — is the main region for U.S. political, economic, and military intervention in Latin America today.

In no other place on the continent is foreign domination so deep, so extensive, and so recent — the permanent aggression against the Cuban revolution, the invasion of the Dominican Republic in April 1965, the occupation of Grenada in 1983, and the current intervention in Central America, which seeks to reverse the Nicaraguan revolution and halt the struggle of the Salvadoran people.

Therefore, struggles against new and old wounds — extermination of indigenous populations, introduction of colonialism and slavery, partitioning of our territories among foreign powers — have forged a united consciousness, in the past and future, of interests and current struggles in the region.

- Against all forms of oppression, discrimination, and abuse, especially apartheid.

- For the most complete independence and the broadest solidarity.

- Against U.S. imperialism.

- For continental unity, nonpayment of

the foreign debt, and a new international economic order, based on justice.

- For the Caribbean and Central America as a zone of peace, without foreign intervention or colonies.

* * *

In the week preceding April 25, an ad supporting the demonstrations appeared in the *Irish Echo* and *Irish People*, newspapers published in the United States. Signed by activists in Ireland and the United States, it read in part:

"We who have worked to end Britain's occupation of the north of Ireland and for Ireland's freedom and independence, salute the April 25 demonstrations for freedom and justice in southern Africa and Central America.

"The nationalist population in the north of Ireland suffers from an all-encompassing discrimination strikingly similar to the vicious apartheid system of racial domination in South Africa.

"Just as Margaret Thatcher pays for an army of occupation in the north of Ireland, the United States government funds the contras, who are waging war against innocent men, women, and children in Nicaragua."

Signers of the ad from Ireland included longtime activist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey; John Carroll, president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions; and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin and member of British Parliament from West Belfast.

Signers from the United States included Daniel Kane, president of the Communications Trade Division of the Teamsters union; James Devine, president of Communications Workers of America Local 1116; and Philadelphia *Daily News* columnist Jack McKinney.

Socialist education conference

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance invite you to an educational weekend . . .

Northwest Socialist Conference

Seattle — May 9-10

Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m.

U.S. Labor at the Crossroads
Hear Craig Gannon, member
SWP Trade Union Bureau
5517 Rainer Ave. South

7:30 p.m.

The Future of the Soviet Union:
Lenin's Unfinished Fight
Hear Doug Jenness,
editor of the 'Militant'
at Camp 722 18th Ave. at Cherry St.

Sunday May 10, 10 a.m.

Next Steps in Building a Party of Communist Workers
Hear John Gage, member SWP Organization Bureau
5517 Rainier Ave. South

For more information contact Seattle or Portland SWP and YSA listed in directory on page 12.

Challenges facing Nicaraguan gov't on Corn Island

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

BLUEFIELDS, Nicaragua — Hurley Morgan is the mayor of Corn Island, a community of 6,000 people living on two small islands about 40 miles east of this Atlantic Coast seaport. While he was in Bluefields last November, Morgan talked to the *Militant* about the challenges for the Sandinista revolution on Corn Island.

Morgan, like most Corn Islanders, is an English-speaking Black, or "Creole." In addition to Creoles, Miskito Indians comprise about 30 percent of the Corn Island population, and a smaller number are Spanish-speaking mestizos.

Morgan was born in 1933, and grew up during the early years of the Somoza family's tyranny. He suffered personally from the abuse meted out to Nicaraguans who were Black or Indians. When his parents could not afford to pay for his secondary school education, they sent him to Managua to personally ask for a scholarship from Anastasio Somoza García (the father of the Somoza overthrow in 1979). However, he never got to see Somoza. One of the dictator's secretaries curtly informed Morgan that he would not get the grant.

Years later, while working as a farmer in southern Nicaragua, Morgan was arrested by the dictator's National Guard, who accused him of aiding the Sandinista guerrillas.

"I don't know if [the charges] were true or not," Morgan said. The tradition in farming communities is that "if some people come by, you feed them and give them rides. I don't know who they were."

He was released after a month in prison, but fearing that he would be arrested again, he left the family farm and went back to Corn Island to work as a lobster fisherman.

Revolution comes to Corn Island

The Somoza family owned some land and the fishing company on Corn Island, which remained very poor and underdeveloped during the family's rule. However, Corn Island did not suffer the brutal repression that was common in the Pacific Coast regions of Nicaragua and no mass insurrection against the dictatorship occurred there.

"It was an island of peace," Morgan said. "We were being governed in Somoza's time by only three people, and

that gives you the idea that Corn Island people just didn't like to have anything to do with politics or revolution."

Nonetheless, there was a group of "the younger boys" who were sympathizers of the Sandinistas, Morgan said.

Corn Island learned about the July 1979 overthrow of Somoza via Costa Rican radio and television. The people then tried to set up a new government.

The first local government, or junta, quickly fell apart. Corn Island ran through three more juntas in unsuccessful attempts to establish a stable government. The third one ended in disaster when its members worked with a national government attorney to confiscate some 30 homes belonging to Corn Islanders accused of supporting the Somoza regime.

"That's the first time in history that I ever saw 90 percent of Corn Island people get together in a demonstration," Morgan said. "They nearly killed [the attorney] because the way the people saw it, there weren't any people who deserved being confiscated." The houses were returned, he added.

At that mass demonstration, Morgan and another islander were elected to the junta to "see that the three other [members] went straight." After discussions with the regional government in Bluefields, Corn Islanders held their own general election in September 1980. Morgan was elected mayor.



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Corn Island Mayor Hurley Morgan



Sunrise
Residents of Corn Island. Expansion of badly needed social programs is hampered by impact of U.S.-backed contra war.

Under the early juntas, attempts were made to build mass organizations on Corn Island, as was being done throughout Nicaragua. Many Corn Islanders were enthusiastic and joined at first, Morgan said, but as the juntas failed they discredited the mass organizations and the members became discouraged. Today, the number of people participating in these organizations is still relatively small.

Challenges and accomplishments

Morgan recounted some of the difficulties and frustrations he has faced in trying to implement badly needed social and economic programs. He repeatedly pointed to the impact of the U.S.-organized contra war, which forces the Nicaraguan government to use half its scarce resources for defense, limiting funds for social programs.

There is only one small health clinic on Corn Island. Patients with serious illnesses must be taken to Bluefields by boat or, when possible, by plane. The government has plans for a 15-room hospital, but because of the war, they have not yet received the funding, Morgan said.

Important gains have been made in education, however. Corn Island now has a secondary school. Some island students have received scholarships for advanced study in mainland Nicaraguan universities or in Cuba. There is also an adult education and literacy program.

Corn Island's main source of income is lobster fishing. Some people work at the state-owned Promar company, while others work as independent fishermen.

There is an acute shortage of boats now, since many captains left with theirs at the time of the revolution. The Nicaraguan government is purchasing 50 boats from Brazil that will go to Promar and to private fishermen on the island.

When Nicaragua instituted a military draft in 1984, it was not accepted by most Corn Islanders. Many youth fled to avoid the draft until Commander Lumberto Campbell, head of the regional government in Bluefields, made "an arrangement with Managua and got them to knock off the military service," Morgan said.

(Since the interview with Morgan, support for military defense of the revolution has deepened on the island. Today, the draft is compulsory. One hundred Corn Islanders are now either serving in the draftee army or in the army reserves.)

Morgan spoke enthusiastically of the regional autonomy project being developed on the Atlantic Coast. It is aimed at establishing local governments that will determine the use of the region's natural resources, promote the languages and cultures of all the racial groups, develop social and economic programs that meet the population's aspirations, and find the most appropriate ways to carry out military defense.

Morgan organized a group of teachers and students who carried out a house-by-house consultation on Corn Island to explain the autonomy project and find out what people wanted to see in their government.

"I think it was very fruitful," he said of the consultation. "Ninety percent were

positive that they agreed with the process of autonomy." Now, they are getting impatient with the lengthy process of drafting the autonomy statutes, and want to see them implemented right away, he added.

As part of the autonomy discussions, Corn Island is also taking up the long-standing problem of racial discrimination.

"Before, the Creoles thought they were superior to the Miskitos, and the mestizos thought they were superior to the Creoles," Morgan said. "But especially since we started explaining about the autonomy and that we're all one people, everybody is working together, understanding each other. So I think we're getting along here."

When the *Militant* talked with Morgan, he had recently returned from a 10-day trip to Cuba to learn about the municipal governments there.

"I wish I had had this experience years ago," he said. "I learned a lot in that trip, but to put it into practice, we need finances."

"Of course," he concluded, "we have had only seven years of revolution, while they've had 27 years."

U.S. Blacks to tour Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua

A tour for Blacks from the United States will visit Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast in June.

"The residents of the Atlantic Coast have always been considered renegades. During the 16th and 17th centuries the Atlantic Coast was a basin for pirates," explained a brochure put out by organizers of the Harriet Tubman Delegation.

"It was a British Protectorate from 1687 to 1780. Until 10 years ago the Atlantic Coast and Pacific Coast had no highway to connect them, so each regime that came to power in Nicaragua exploited this cultural and geographic difference to their advantage."

"The current Nicaraguan government has for the past three years been working on a plan of autonomy for the Atlantic Coast which will allow the residents of the Atlantic Coast to select a government and leaders of their choosing."

"Prior to the Triumph in 1979, the Atlantic Coast had an illiteracy rate of 80 percent. The current government launched a literacy campaign that educated the residents of the Atlantic Coast in their own language. In addition to English and Spanish, several Indian dialects are spoken by the various Indian tribes that have thrived there for centuries."

Between June 13-19, tour participants will visit schools, churches, and health clinics and meet with the mayor of Bluefields, the largest city on the Atlantic Coast, as well as talk to artists and musicians.

The round-trip cost of the tour from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and San Francisco is \$850. The deadline for applications is May 15. Contact the Harriet Tubman Delegation, P.O. Box 14757, San Francisco, Calif. 94114.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Cuban youth speak

Tens of thousands of Cuban youth take part in missions of international solidarity around the world. "If there is a country that needs our technical or medical skills, or ... our help to defend their sovereignty, it's a moral obligation, even a privilege for us to do this," said Raúl Castellanos Lage, outgoing member of the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Cuba.

For its May issue, *Perspectiva Mundial* did an exclusive interview with Castellanos and another Cuban youth leader, Juan Contino Aslán, at the end of the recent UJC convention in Havana.

Contino had just come back from an internationalist mission in Angola, which is under attack by South Africa's apartheid regime. Castellanos served as a doctor in Nicaragua for 26 months.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every month brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.

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Ohio meat-packers struggle to retain jobs

Workers hold press conference to protest ruling by state agency

BY BILL KALMAN
AND SUSAN LAMONT

CLEVELAND — Meat-packers at Superior's Brand Meats in Massillon, Ohio, are determined to continue their fight to regain their jobs in the face of a serious blow dealt them by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (OBES).

Since last December, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 17A have been protesting layoffs at Superior's and the transfer of work they had been doing to a new, non-union plant in Salem, Ohio, owned by their boss, Neil Genshaft. More than 400 Local 17A members have been laid off at Superior's. Around a hundred are still working.

Genshaft used nearly half a million dollars in federal job-training funds to open the nonunion plant in Salem. This was done in violation of a raft of regulations that are supposed to prevent these funds from being used to break unions, deter union organizing, cause layoffs, or lower prevailing wage rates.

The local has been reaching out for solidarity and support from the community, especially the labor movement, in the Massillon area. It has organized several large, well-publicized demonstrations.

Since the end of March, the UFCW has been presenting testimony at a hearing in Salem on Genshaft's misuse of job-training funds. The hearing is being conducted in front of an officer appointed by the OBES.

Although the Salem hearing is still in progress, the OBES went ahead and issued a report April 13 on the "investigation" it had conducted in March. That report finds no violations of the regulations governing the dispersal of job-training funds, with the exception of admitting that the union was not consulted as it should have been when the work was transferred.

Nearly 100 Local 17A members participated in a well-attended news conference April 16 to denounce the OBES action and to reiterate their determination to continue to fight for their jobs.

The news conference turned into a discussion of what to do next, with a broad range of ideas suggested.

The Local 17A leadership has proposed the formation of a citizen's committee of

unionists and community representatives to investigate the OBES.

Workers also discussed Genshaft's intimidation campaign aimed at blocking the UFCW's organizing efforts at the non-union Salem plant. And they discussed his harassment and threats against unionized workers (also members of Local 17A) at the Sugardale packing plant in Canton. Several workers have been arbitrarily fired there recently.

On April 11 several hundred UFCW members and their supporters demonstrated outside the Statehouse in Columbus. Local 17A President Gary Feiock said they were there "to bring to the governor's attention that federal funding is being used to undercut the union." A liberal Democrat, Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste was elected with the backing of many unions.

A representative in Celeste's office told Local 17A that if it wanted a meeting with the governor, it would have to call off the demonstration. The meat-packers refused.



Several hundred meat-packers and their supporters protested outside Ohio Statehouse in Columbus April 11.

Militant/Bill Kalman

Auto union holds bargaining convention

BY JEFF POWERS

CHICAGO — United Auto Workers officials are proposing measures in the upcoming negotiations with Ford and General Motors that will lead to more concessions being forced on the union membership.

That's the meaning of the UAW Special Bargaining Convention held here April 12-15.

The purpose of the gathering, which was attended by 1,500 delegates, was to outline the union's bargaining strategy when the Ford and GM contracts expire in September.

'Guaranteed employment'

In his opening speech, UAW President Owen Bieber said, "Guaranteed employment is a concept whose time has come."

At the bargaining conference three years ago on the eve of the last Ford and GM negotiations, Bieber made a similar speech.

But the UAW has been shrinking. And GM management announced in December

that 11 plants, employing nearly 30,000 workers, will be shut.

Since 1982, UAW officials have agreed to sacrifice wages, benefits, and working conditions for phony company promises of job security.

"The contraction of the work force has got to be done in a rational and orderly manner," Bieber said. He said the UAW will bargain to keep the Guaranteed Income Stream program (GIS), which enables high-seniority employees to collect up to 75 percent of their pay if they are laid off and there is no job available for them at another one of the company's plants.

Recent experience shows that this program has little impact on providing job security.

Bieber said the union will fight for a wage increase (there has not been a contractual hourly raise for auto workers since 1982) and retention of the cost-of-living pay increase.

But if the last two rounds of negotiations serve as an example, the UAW tops will rapidly junk these demands for what they claim are "job security" guarantees.

Forced overtime

The question of forced overtime is an example of how weak the UAW's bargaining strategy has become. Ford works people 9 or 10 hours a day, six days a week. Last year Ford scheduled an average of 3 million hours of overtime a month. Simply returning to the 40-hour workweek would mean thousands of workers would get auto jobs.

As Bieber explained, "We put a deterrent [in the last round of negotiations] on overtime hours that exceed 5 percent of straight time hours. The companies also agreed to aim for the goal of reducing weekly overtime by two hours."

"It's obvious that the companies have not been fazed by either the deterrent or the commitment," he said.

Bieber also devoted a substantial portion of his remarks to urging Congress to pass stronger protectionist measures, which he said would save jobs for U.S. workers.

A picket line of 200 union members demanding an end to plant closings was held outside the convention. "Keep jobs in America" was one of their chants.

The New Directions caucus and the No More Concessions caucus both had delegates at the bargaining convention. They offered no alternative strategy to that of the Bieber leadership. The two caucuses focused their attention on trying to get a resolution passed against whipsawing — a company practice of playing one plant off against another to try to force through work-rule changes and other concessions.

The resolution did not pass. However, the UAW has a longstanding record against whipsawing. But as with all its bargaining demands — from higher wages to an end to forced overtime — they mean nothing unless the membership is mobilized and organized to carry out a fight for them. And that fight can't just be at contract time; it has to be organized every day on the shop floor.

"The union has been letting the company get away with anything they want," commented a worker about to lose his job at the Norwood, Ohio, GM plant. "They took things from us a step at a time, and one day we woke up and realized we were going to be without a job. We all have to get together — Ford, Chrysler, GM, the parts plants and everybody else — to fight for our rights."

Jeff Powers is a member of UAW Local 93 in Kansas City.

Safety on job, union recognition big issues in Connecticut strike

BY PETER KRALA

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Some 55 workers at the Uretex plant here have been on strike for three months. They are demanding that the company recognize the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) as their bargaining representative. A vote on union recognition will be held soon.

A recent visit to the picket line and strike headquarters showed that the workers are determined to organize a union and to protect their health and livelihood. Though the strike was initiated over unfair labor practices, the health issue is important.

In December, health officials at Yale-New Haven Hospital noticed a suspicious concentration of noninfectious hepatitis among Uretex workers. Out of 50 workers who voluntarily submitted to testing, 36 had abnormalities. Ten had toxic hepatitis and were too sick to work. Three had to be hospitalized.

Uretex coats various fabrics that are used in everything from parachutes and tarpaulins to sleeping bags. In this process, solid polyurethane is dissolved in dimethylformamide (DMF) to form a syrupy liquid. After being coated, the fabric is heated in an oven to dry. DMF is fingered as the chief suspect in the health problems at the company.

Often the workers are required to eat at their stations, where their food is exposed to DMF.

Some 1,500 workers have passed through the plant in the 16 years of its operation. All face potential health risks as a consequence of their employment.

Those living around the plant are also

concerned. Uretex and its sister company, Chemtek, are located in the Fair Haven Heights section of New Haven, overlooking the Quinnipiac River. This working-class neighborhood has rallied to the workers' side.

When organizers from the ILGWU visited the Uretex plant, they found a ready audience. It didn't take long before the overwhelming majority of the work force — which is predominantly Hispanic — was backing the union 100 percent. When management refused to bargain, the strike began.

Another issue is low pay. Most workers earn between \$4 and \$6 an hour. One younger worker pointed to a man in his 50s who is a maintenance mechanic. He had been at the company 14 years, was making \$6.50 an hour, and had no benefits.

Twelve hour shifts are common. Work uniforms are not provided even though, as one worker explained, "Your clothes have to be thrown out after a couple of days."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has indicated that it will take six to eight weeks to assess the hazard posed by Uretex's operation. In the meantime the plant is operating with management personnel and a handful of scabs.

Top company officers Harold Hodrer and John Andrews are no strangers to pollution. In January both officials were convicted of illegally dumping toxic waste. They face a possible fine of \$5 million and two years in jail.

Messages of support and financial assistance can be sent to the Uretex strikers, care of ILGWU, 12 Orange St., New Haven, Conn. 06511.

L.A. garment workers fight firings

BY SETH GALINSKY

LOS ANGELES — Some 200 workers at Ideal Garment Dyers, Inc. walked off their jobs March 26 to protest the firing of workers for union activity. The workers have been fighting to get the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) recognized at the plant.

Most workers make only \$3.35 an hour, the legal minimum wage. They have no medical insurance, no paid holidays, and no paid vacations. Most are from Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

At a spirited rally in front of the plant April 10, strikers and their supporters, carrying red and black flags, chanted, "The workers united will never be defeated."

A worker who addressed the rally said, "We want fair treatment, and what we are asking for is fair. Here they treat animals better, but we are people. We want a contract and insurance. We have determination, and that is why we will win."

David Young, an ILGWU organizer, pointed out that Ideal's sales rose from \$6 million in 1980 to \$75 million in 1986. But the workers, who make profits for the company, get nothing in return.

Steve Nutter, regional director of the Western States Region of the ILGWU, told the press, "This is the first area garment industry strike since the Immigration Reform and Control Act took effect last November. It proves the new law has not cowed workers into taking whatever a company dishes out — in this case a whole series of discriminatory firings, layoffs, and harassment."

Contributions to the Ideal Strike Fund can be sent to the ILGWU at 675 S. Park View St., 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, Calif. 90057.

Seth Galinsky is a member of ILGWU Local 482 at Manny Industries in Los Angeles.

Big push needed to make subscription goal

'Militant' supporters urged to join 12 days of target sales starting May 26

BY MALIK MIAH

There are five weeks left in our campaign to sign up 6,700 new subscribers to the *Militant* and another 1,800 new readers of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. As the scoreboard below shows, we fell slightly behind schedule over the past week.

After very successful sales on April 25 in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., at the antiwar and anti-apartheid demonstrations, sales supporters around the country are stepping back to evaluate their progress and charting plans to make their local goals.

Some areas are discussing raising their targets. New York is increasing its goal by 100. One area, Houston, plans to lower its goal since a number of supporters have recently moved to other cities to help build the socialist movement.

Overall, however, prospects are fairly good to make the national goal and to begin the necessary subscription renewal work to turn introductory subscriptions into long-term ones.

Outrage over the murder of Ben Linder by the contras will lead many people to want to read what the *Militant* and *PM* have to say about the Sandinista revolution. Thousands of people — workers, farmers, students, professionals, and others — have traveled to Nicaragua since 1979. Many more will go there to replace Linder. *Militant* and *PM* salespeople should try to contact supporters of Nicaragua in their area about buying or renewing their subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM*.

YSA convention

Supporters in Chicago, New York, and a number of other cities are planning a big push in sales to students before many colleges go on summer break. The Young Socialist Alliance is organizing a special sales team directed at students in the Midwest to help build its national convention, which will take place in Chicago May 23-25.

A national sales team will also be in Chicago the week leading up to the YSA convention.

Supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* nationally should consider stepping up sales to students and urging young people we meet to attend the conference. (See YSA convention ad on page 8.)

More *Militant* and *PM* sales teams to high schools can also be organized, as well

as to working-class communities and at plant gates at industrial worksites.

Target 12 days

To make the national goal, the business office needs to receive an average of 770 subscriptions per week. This figure includes the week of the YSA convention.

To help ensure reaching our goal, supporters should start planning now for 12 days of sales immediately following the close of the YSA convention. These 12 target days, ending the final day of the spring sales campaign, June 6, can include special weeknight teams, as well as weekend sales.

One goal will be to get maximum participation by all supporters over the 12 days, including joining several sales teams over the two-week period.

Prospects good

Our success so far, especially on April 25, puts us in a good position to make the drive. Even though our totals over the past week were a little low, we continue to meet political people — workers, students, and others — who want to read papers that provide the facts about what's going on here and abroad.

Over the May 1-3 weekend in New York, for example, a team of salespeople sold 64 *PM* and *Militant* subscriptions at the Second Latin American Book Fair held at City College of New York in Manhattan. Most of the new readers bought subscriptions to *PM* — a total of 54.

Conference participants from the Dominican Republic bought the most *PM* subscriptions. Many people knew of *PM* and already had subscriptions.



Militant Member of recently concluded southern Illinois team selling *Militant*. New teams have been launched to Puerto Rico, western coalfields, and Yakima Valley in Washington State.

Pathfinder Bookstore of New York also sold about \$500 worth of literature to the several thousand people who came as publishers, distributors, or simply to browse and buy books on display.

The national sales teams continue to do well. In addition to the YSA convention-building and subscription teams in the Chicago area, a team in the Alabama coalfields and at nearby college campuses recently sold scores of papers.

Three new teams hit the road beginning May 4. One is in the Yakima Valley in

Washington State talking to striking farm workers and students. A second leaves midweek from Utah to travel to coal-mining areas out West. And a third team is in Puerto Rico.

The effort of these national sales teams, combined with the extra push to reach out to students leading up to the YSA convention, followed by a big mobilization the last 12 days of the drive, should put us in a position to make our goal. It won't be easy, but with the areas with the largest goals — New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago — leading the way, the target is realistic.

Asian Americans in N.Y. protest cop attacks

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES

NEW YORK — Chanting, "What do we want? Prosecution! When do we want it? Now!" and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" hundreds of people gathered at a protest rally here April 21.

The predominantly Asian-American crowd had marched from Chinatown to the Manhattan district attorney's office. They were joined by a contingent of members and officials of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25. A majority of the local's members are Chinese Americans.

The action was called to protest a case of

police brutality that occurred four months ago and remains unresolved.

On January 2, two cops broke down the apartment door of a Chinese family, beat the family members, the Wongs and Woos, and subjected them to racist abuse.

The cops arrested everyone present on charges of bootlegging cable TV, assault, and resisting arrest.

Various injuries were suffered. Mrs. Wong required 12 stitches for a cut above the eye from a blow by handcuffs one cop swung at her.

The rally on their behalf was organized by the Wong/Woo Support Committee of

the Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence.

They demanded that charges brought against the family be dropped and that there be a full investigation of the police role, with the guilty cops brought to justice.

In two weeks, a petition supporting these demands was signed by 4,000 people in the streets of Chinatown. It also had the support of many Asian-American community organizations, labor and civil rights groups, as well as organizations from the Black and Puerto Rican communities.

Under the pressure generated by this broad response, all charges against the family members were dismissed.

But supporters of the case blasted the district attorney for failing to indict the cops guilty of the racist brutality and pressed the demand for action against them.

Right-wing Nicaraguans not welcome in N.Y.'s 'El Barrio'

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

NEW YORK — David Givens, president of New York's Community Board #11, declared that members of the right-wing Nicaraguan opposition were not welcome in the Puerto Rican neighborhood of El Barrio, in uptown Manhattan.

The board's statement, signed by Givens, was quoted in the April 9 *El Diario*. He said that the aid the U.S. government is giving to the rightist Nicaraguans is being used to "kill innocent people."

The statement was issued after a member of the community board, William Nieves, received a phone call and letter from Dan Traub requesting a reception for the right-wing politicians in the name of the United States Information Agency.

Estela Vázquez, also a board member, called the request, "an insult to a neighborhood that has suffered in its own flesh cuts in funding for housing construction, at the same time the administration was supplying \$100 million for the actions of the Nicaraguan contras."

Spring Subscription Scoreboard

Area	Goals		Sold		% Sold
	<i>Militant</i>	<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i>	<i>Militant</i>	<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i>	
Phoenix	80	80	48	72	75
Los Angeles	250	200	204	116	71
New Paltz, N.Y.	10	-	7	-	70
New York	550	300	371	215	69
Milwaukee	100	25	79	7	69
Chicago	250	100	169	58	65
Baltimore	150	8	85	16	64
Des Moines, Iowa	100	10	53	16	63
Stony Brook, N.Y.	10	-	6	-	60
Pittsburgh	90	10	52	7	59
Atlanta	110	10	57	7	53
Portland, Ore.	125	25	64	15	53
Boston	240	60	104	52	52
Morgantown, W.Va.	95	5	48	4	52
Twin Cities, Minn.	200	15	99	12	52
Amherst, Mass.	10	-	4	1	50
Newark, N.J.	375	175	203	72	50
Greensboro, N.C.	115	10	60	2	50
Seattle	180	50	89	24	49
Miami	110	40	57	14	47
Denver	100	15	49	5	47
San Francisco	100	60	47	27	46
Charleston, W.Va.	100	-	44	2	46
San Jose, Calif.	180	100	88	40	46
Toledo, Ohio	100	5	45	2	45
San Diego	85	55	42	19	44
Oakland, Calif.	150	50	69	16	43
Detroit	190	20	76	8	40
Wilmington, De.	5	-	2	-	40
Dallas	120	60	53	18	39
Kansas City	120	20	52	3	39
Washington, D.C.	160	50	65	15	38
Philadelphia	150	50	58	17	38
Capital Dist., N.Y.	110	12	40	5	37
Houston	125	25	48	6	36
Austin, Minn.	80	10	30	2	36
Birmingham, Ala.	130	2	46	0	35
Cincinnati	70	5	22	4	35
St. Louis	250	12	81	5	33
Cleveland	125	15	37	7	31
Omaha, Neb.	100	15	29	6	30
Salt Lake City	100	30	31	3	26
New Orleans	90	10	23	0	23
Annandale, N.Y.	70	10	18	0	23
Ames, Iowa	5	-	0	1	20
Columbus, Ohio	25	5	3	2	17
Price, Utah	45	2	5	0	11
Honolulu, Hawaii	15	-	1	-	7
Clovis, Calif.	5	-	0	-	0
Edmond, Okla.	5	-	0	-	0
Oberlin, Ohio	5	-	0	-	0
Tucson, Ariz.	2	3	0	0	0
West Haven, Conn.	5	-	0	-	0
W. Palm Beach, Fla.	5	-	0	-	0
Teams	-	-	264	29	-
Other	-	-	62	43	-
Totals	6,700	1,800	3,289	995	50
To be on schedule			3,484	936	52

Sugar workers in Philippines demand land

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON
AND DEB SHNOOKAL

BACOLOD, Philippines — In March 1986, shortly after the overthrow of Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos, we visited the island of Negros as guests of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW). A year later we were able to return. Much has changed.

The fight for land

The Negros sugar workers have been able to seize the democratic opening provided by the "people power" overthrow of Marcos to expand and consolidate their militant organization and deepen their struggle for land.

We were especially interested to learn of the progress of the NFSW's "farm lot" campaign. The campaign has been central to the union's response to the collapse of sugar prices on the world market in recent years.

Of the 400,000 sugar workers on Negros, 250,000 have been displaced from regular employment, as the plantation owners sharply cut back their sugar cane plantings. The NFSW is demanding that at least a portion of plantation land now lying idle be distributed to sugar workers for farm lots to grow food to keep themselves and their families from starving.

Under the pressure of angry and hungry sugar workers, provincial governor Daniel Lacson — who was appointed by President Corazon Aquino — has urged the planters to agree that only 60 percent of the sugar lands will continue to be planted in sugar. Under his plan, an additional 30 percent would be made available to foreign and domestic capitalists to develop new export crops. The remaining 10 percent would be sold to the sugar workers.

Lacson, who is himself from a planting family, has run into stiff opposition from the planters, who fear that this will open the door to a more comprehensive land reform.

Nita Cherniguin, of the NFSW's international solidarity office, told us the NFSW has given conditional support to the "60-30-10" proposal as a first step.

At the same time, she said, the union had so far been able to sign contracts with planters for the use of nearly 10,000 acres of plantation land for the NFSW farm-lot program. One thousand acres were already under cultivation.

Lockout

The workers at Hacienda Camillie were locked out in March 1982, when they tried to get the planter to pay them the minimum legal wage required by the Ministry of Labor and Employment. Ever since, the plantation has been run by contract labor imported from the neighboring island of Panay.

With the help of the sugar workers' federation, the village is surviving the lockout through organizing a number of coopera-

tive fund-raising and food-growing projects. Bananas, sweet potatoes, and gabi (an edible root) grow along the banks of a stream. The villagers raise pigs and ducks. Shingle is hand-dredged from the stream to sell for construction purposes.

Marlen, who showed us around her village, explained that the NFSW has been organizing on the plantation since 1972. In 1984 the entire village was arrested and held for three days. But, she said, uniting through the NFSW has given them the confidence to resist such intimidation.

Scattered through a crowd in the village for a fund-raising fiesta were armed members of the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF), a cut-throat militia funded by the planters.

Leaving the plantation we noticed a regular army detachment guarding a cattle-breeding project nearby. The planters pay the soldiers a bonus to protect their property from hungry peasants, our guides explained.

Workers cultivate abandoned plantation

Hacienda Kanla-on III is nestled against the foothills of Mt. Kanla-on. When sugar prices fell, the owner abandoned it, along with 72 families living there. Through the NFSW, the families had pressured the landowner to loan them some 20 acres from his 500 acres of idle plantation. He gave them the worst hilly land. Through weeks of back-breaking labor with only primitive tools, they had transformed the hillside into terraced, irrigated rice lands. Now they were demanding another 17 acres and two caribao (water buffalo) for plowing.

In addition to the cooperative rice fields, individual households grew corn elsewhere on the plantation. This is sold in order to buy fish and other necessities from the market. One acre of corn, it was explained to us, could earn a family the equivalent of about \$57, or more than a fully employed sugar worker could earn in one or even two months.

The beneficial effects of the farm-lot program were evident at Kanla-on III. Despite their obvious poverty, the farm workers, especially their children, looked relatively well-fed and healthy. This was in contrast to the semi-starved condition of the employed sugar workers we had met in the Murcia area in 1986.

Army harassment

The farm lots were also at the center of the NFSW organization in the village. This made them a focus of military harassment. Hemondenes, a director of the farm-lot program on the plantation explained that before the 60-day ceasefire between the New People's Army (NPA) and the government, which began last December 10, the military harassed them constantly. The army would go door-to-door questioning them and beating them up. They were accused of being communists, he explained,



Militant/Russell Johnson

Families of contract sugar workers live in barracks-like housing in Hacienda Consuelo on Negros island. They are paid 50 cents to \$1 per day during the five months each year when work is available.

because of the cooperative farm-lot plan.

Nine of the cooperative organizers had been forced to register themselves with the military authorities to avoid further harassment of the village. They were listed as "NPA surrenderees," and were forced to go through a three-day "reindoctrination" seminar. Hermondones showed us his certificate from the course — he called it his "life insurance policy."

Hacienda Isabel

Hacienda Isabel was owned by the Jalandonis, one of the wealthiest ruling families of Negros. The best-known Jalandoni, however, is Luis. A former priest, he abandoned the planter class to join the revolutionary peasant movement. He is now international representative of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the political umbrella group supporting the New People's Army.

We spoke to Enrique and Cesar, two NFSW leaders on the plantation. Most of the 78 families were still employed there irregularly. Pay rates were abysmally low. After a week of weeding sugar cane on a piece-rate basis, 10 workers would have to share the equivalent of \$15.

This meager income was now being supplemented by two-and-a-half acres of corn, rice, and vegetables.

Enrique and Cesar outlined the history of the hacienda workers' struggle for these farm lots. The NFSW had begun organizing there in 1979. But this had to be done secretly to avoid harassment until they had won a majority of the workers to the union and could demand a certification election.

Their demands focused on higher wages. But when the landowner insisted that he couldn't afford to pay more because of the sugar crisis, they began demanding that Jalandoni provide land on which they could grow food. In September 1985 they finally won some land from him after threatening to take it themselves.

But this step forward came at a price. On March 8, 1986, one of their members, Jerry Montero, was arrested by a paramilitary unit as an "NPA suspect." He was later found pegged out across a rock, skinned alive.

Ceasefire

The Isabel sugar workers had welcomed the ceasefire, Enrique and Cesar said, because it had at least temporarily halted much of the military harassment and given them greater space in which to organize. A big contingent from the plantation had gone to Bacolod December 10 to participate in a giant peace rally that marked the beginning of the ceasefire.

In the words of one NFSW leader we spoke to, the 60-day ceasefire had been "an opportunity to meet with the NDF and NPA openly, to know better who they are and what they stand for."

They estimated that most workers at Hacienda Isabel had voted "yes" in the plebiscite on the constitution proposed by the government of Corazon Aquino. They were giving her another chance to implement her promise to bring land reform and peace to the countryside.

'Sugar czar'

Hacienda Consuelo was one of 26 Negros plantations owned by the "sugar-

czar" — top Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto. Officially taken over by the Aquino government after Benedicto fled the country, the plantation continues to be run by Benedicto's manager. And little else has changed.

Tomas and Elma Alcala are one of 12 remaining families who live permanently on the plantation. They have not been able to work there, however, since 1976. For 10 years they had been locked out in a battle for union recognition, after secretly joining the NFSW in 1974.

There were 150 workers from 58 families involved in the lockout, but 90 returned to work after two years. A condition of reemployment was to leave the NFSW. However the rehired workers continued to secretly sustain the 60 holding out.

In 1982 Benedicto bought out the previous owners of Consuelo and fired the entire workforce in order to block a new union certification election, replacing them with contract labor from Panay. He tried to shift the families off the hacienda. The 12 rejected his meager compensation offer and refused to budge from their homes despite intimidation from troops housed in Benedicto's compound nearby.

These families held out by establishing gardens along stream banks on the plantation, and collecting firewood and shellfish from neighboring areas. During the rainy season the vegetables alone could bring the families from \$7.50 to \$10 per week, the Alcalas estimated. By contrast, the contract laborers earned only the equivalent of 50 cents to \$1 a day during the five months of each year they worked.

Contract laborers

Tomas took us across the road to the quarters of the contract laborers. More than 100 workers and their families were crowded into the narrow concrete barracks, perhaps 150 feet long. Each family was housed on a concrete platform the size of a double bed. Some had built bamboo screens on these to allow a little privacy.

Tomas explained that the laborers were debt slaves. Recruited on their home island by a labor contractor, who advanced each of them \$25, they received only food allowance until the end of cane-cutting season. This meant they had to borrow further from the contractor. Their starvation wages meant that they remained permanently in his debt and so had to return each year.

The NFSW members approached them as fellow exploited workers, Tomas emphasized. They sought to befriend them, talk to them, and win them to the union, despite management efforts to block this. It was difficult, however, because the laborers were returned to Panay at the end of each season.

The Consuelo workers are demanding that the government reinstate them in their former jobs and give them a section of the plantation to till. This is in line with Aquino's promise to turn over lands formerly owned by Marcos cronies to the landless, Elma explained.

If this did not happen soon, she predicted, sugar workers would begin to take over vacant and abandoned lands and plant them. The threat of military intervention would not stop them. "They are already killing us little by little from starvation by refusing us work or land," she said. "So what have we got to lose?"

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Grenada today: 3½ years after the U.S. invasion

Interview with a revolutionary youth leader

The following is an interview with Terry Marryshow, general secretary of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation (MBYO) of Grenada. The MBYO is the youth group of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

The MBPM is a revolutionary party formed in May 1984. It is named after Grenada's late prime minister and revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop, who, along with other key leaders, was murdered in a counterrevolutionary coup in October 1983. That coup opened the way for the subsequent massive U.S. invasion of this eastern Caribbean island less than a week later.

The interview was obtained in Havana, Cuba, by Rena Cacoullos and Mary-Alice Waters in April, during the Fifth Congress of Cuba's Union of Young Communists.

* * *

Question. Can you explain to us the situation facing working people, particularly young people in Grenada since the U.S. invasion of October 1983?

Answer. In answering that question, you have to compare the youth of the revolutionary period [1979 to 1983] to the youth of today.

Youth were fully involved in the revolutionary process. They were involved in a very complete way — in cooperatives, in participation in sports and culture, in defence of the country, in the militia, in the army.

Today, however, in the wake of the downfall of the Grenada revolution and the invasion of 1983, you have a completely different situation. Firstly, unemployment is very serious. It is around 40 percent; 60 percent among the youth.

The economic situation is disastrous. What we have now is the increasing use of drugs, hard drugs, like cocaine, which was never present during the revolutionary period.

Also, along with this increase in drugs, we have seen an increase in the rate of crime in the country.

The women of Grenada, who had gained so much pride and dignity during the revolutionary period, are being pushed down once more. We have a resurgence of prostitution in the country. Again, this is at-

tributable to the economic situation.

The government of today, the government of Herbert Blaize, has no programs for the development of the youth of Grenada. Through the media, through television, through the radio and the newspapers, all efforts are being made to inculcate different values into the youth than the values the revolution advanced.

Youth politically apathetic

Instead of having a sense of identity with our own history, our own conditions and struggles, many of the youth today identify more with the values projected in the North American media.

So we have a situation today where the youth of the country are politically apathetic. The downfall of the Grenada revolution has left them without a perspective, and they have absolutely nothing to do.

Q. What are the main activities of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation? What demands are you raising around unemployment and other issues affecting young people in Grenada today?

A. As a progressive organization, we have a very hard time operating within Grenada today because the tremendous amount of propaganda that is waged against the left has an impact.

Our call to the youth is to stand up and fight again for sovereignty and independence, which we lost after the invasion.

I was just referring to this question of patriotism. It does not exist among the youth anymore. Because of the heavy American influence in the country, we really feel as if we had returned or regressed to the colonial period — when we were a colony of England. The only difference is that today we are a colony of the United States.

Their goal is to try to deter the youth from struggling again, to demoralize them, to create economic conditions in which they cannot feed themselves, they cannot work.

Our call is for the youth to stand up once again for the right of independence, for the right to self-determination, for which we fought so hard.

Through sports, through recreational activities, we try to draw the youth back into

activity. Up to now it has been very difficult to motivate youth politically.

The actual situation in the country, however, is beginning to motivate them. Because each day, the more we feel the effects of the invasion, the more we begin to miss the gains we made during the revolution, in terms of the right to work, the right to free education, the right to go away on scholarships and study.

These kinds of rights have been abrogated by the government. And the more we feel it, the more this inspires the youth to get out of this period of lethargy and apathy so they can fight once again.

Our main goal is to motivate youth and help them in this area. This is really the test of our organization in both the short and long term.

Q. Are there any concrete demands being raised around unemployment?

A. Well, maybe I can refer to my particular case as an example. I am fighting for the right to work in Grenada, to use my education to help my people.

Q. You are a doctor, aren't you? You graduated from medical school in Cuba?

A. Yes. During the revolutionary period, the government arranged for as many as 200 young people to study in the socialist countries. Over the last two years, 80 to 90 graduates, in all different fields — medicine, dentistry, engineering, agriculture, food processing — have returned to Grenada.

The problem, however, is that on returning to Grenada, because of the heavy American influence and the anti-communist propaganda that is being directed against the progressive forces in Grenada, the graduates from socialist countries are being looked upon as threats, as people who have been "indoctrinated."

So we face serious discrimination, even though our degrees are recognized by regional universities.

For example, the University of the West Indies has given full accreditation to the Cuban degrees. They have evaluated them and have given them very, very high marks. In fact, they have said that many of the courses offered at Cuban universities



Grenada's late prime minister Maurice B. Cuba, the only country standing up to agricultural and industrial production.

are much more extensive than their own courses.

Fighting for right to work

In my particular case, I returned to Grenada in August 1986 as a medical doctor. But I have not yet been able to work.

There are still quite a number of us who are unemployed more than one year, in some cases two years, after returning.

Q. Are doctors educated in Cuba being singled out by the government? Or is the discrimination more general?

A. It has been quite general. But the doctors face a unique problem because they are the only ones who need a license to practice within the country.

People who have graduated in other fields do not need a government license to work. So they can go into the private sector. They can even create their own enterprises.

In the case of doctors, however, on our return to Grenada, we were first informed that in order to be licensed we had to sit [take] an exam — an exam that in fact does not exist. We protested against this, and eventually this precondition was removed.

The government then instituted new conditions. It said we must do two years of internship, after having already done one year of internship in Cuba. In other words, eight years in all before being licensed to practice on the island of Grenada.

In addition, the opportunity to complete this internship has only been extended to a limited number of doctors. The government has said that it has economic constraints, and so initially, they gave spaces to only five out of the 10 to practice. The other five necessarily have to look for other places in the Caribbean or go where they can be employed gainfully.

Q. Some of the doctors are practicing elsewhere in the Caribbean?

A. Yes. In fact, two have left. One went to St. Vincent, and one went to Jamaica.

The impact of the government's policies is that the right to work has been taken away from us. We do not have the right to go into private practice.

Q. So the right to work and the right to be able to use your education to help the Grenadian people is one of the concrete demands that the youth organization is fighting for?

A. Of course. In fact, in the newspaper of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, we have highlighted the struggle over the right to work. We believe that the doctors must have the right to work. All people must have the right to work.

And it's not something that we alone are calling for. I must also mention that even some of the reactionary newspapers in the country support the right of all graduates to work, irrespective of whether they earned their degrees in socialist countries or not.

We believe this is a fundamental question that we all should fight for.

Destruction of social programs

Q. Could you give some examples of what has happened since the U.S. invasion to some of the programs that existed under the People's Revolutionary Government?

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Kevin Williams

Bishop (center), flanked by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, left, and Cuban President Fidel Castro. "In wake of downfall of Grenada revolution," Marryshow says, "apart from imperialism is Nicaragua." Photo on right shows People's Revolutionary Army and militia members tilling soil. After invasion, U.S.-imposed regime eliminated programs to advance

A. A comprehensive health system was being developed in Grenada. Its expansion depended on the return of doctors from training in Cuba.

Emphasis was going to be on primary health care, initially. Then we would have begun to train our own specialists to take the places of many of the foreign specialists who were in Grenada at the time.

Since the invasion, this has stopped. The Cuban doctors were deported back to Cuba, and health care is no longer a right of the people. It has become, once again, a privilege. Because only if you can afford to go to a private doctor who is good, can you get quality health care within the country. As of this year, the government has instituted fees for ordinary analysis and hospital care.

Of course, the health system established by the revolutionary government gave all of the people in different parts of the country access to health care. Today, this is only possible in the city [of St. George's], which has a hospital and many doctors.

But the people who live in the rural districts are deprived of this privilege. The clinics close at 4:00 in the afternoon — they go from 8:00 to 4:00 — and once the clinic is closed, you do not have the right to get sick anymore.

Also, before, we had a district medical officer in each district. Now we have one medical officer, who goes to a different district every day. Again, people of a particular district have to choose a particular day to get sick.

There are many other programs that have appeared. For example, the development of farming cooperatives, livestock and agricultural cooperatives, which utilized many of the lands that were previously unutilized, has ceased.

The program aimed at using all the idle hands and all the idle lands to increase production, of course, has been eliminated. Many of the private lands that had been acquired by the revolutionary government and put into production have been returned to their previous owners. Many of these cooperatives have been completely destroyed.

There remains a vestige of the literacy program that was developed by the revolutionary government, aimed at eliminating illiteracy among the vast majority of the population. But today it is implemented in a very minimal way, not as it was during the revolutionary period.

This has had serious consequences for our people because it means that they continue in ignorance. Many of them cannot read or write. This serves the ends of the ruling regime and imperialism.

Participation in the militia during the revolutionary process was for the most part symbolic. But at the same time it developed a sense of patriotism and identity with the revolutionary process. The militia has been disbanded, of course.

What we have now is a paramilitary force, the SSU, or Special Security Unit, which has been trained by American military advisers. Its basic aim is to quell any social unrest in the country.

Q. Last night you mentioned that this

paramilitary police force in Grenada has killed a number of youths.

A. Over the last three years, six people have been killed.

But no inquests have been carried out. Our party has called for an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding these shootings and demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

The U.S. presence

Q. How strong is the U.S. presence in Grenada?

A. In terms of actual numbers? These are figures we really don't know. All we know is that almost every single department of government has an American adviser.

There are a number of American advisers who train the Special Security Unit. They carry M-16 arms and dress in camouflage uniforms, very similar to what you see in the Central American countries.

Q. What has happened to the trade union movement since the revolution was destroyed and the U.S.-imposed government was set up?

A. The main thing that has happened is that the leadership of many unions has passed from a progressive leadership to one that is reactionary in every sense of the word.

At the present time, the Public Workers Union is facing a serious confrontation over the firing of 1,800 workers from the civil service. But the union has been very passive about all of this. [See story on back page.]

In the prerevolutionary time, such an attack on the workers would have been sufficient, more than sufficient, to bring people out onto the streets. The lack of response gives you an idea of the kind of leadership we have at the level of the trade unions today.

Q. Let's talk about the international impact of the Grenada revolution and its defeat.

A. The assassination of Maurice Bishop and the other leaders of the revolution by forces led by former deputy prime minister Bernard Coard, followed by the U.S. military invasion, has had political repercussions throughout the entire Caribbean. Progressive working-class and revolutionary-minded people throughout the region are all discussing the lessons of Grenada.

Lessons of defeat

Q. What's the importance of this discussion, especially for young people who are trying to understand what happened in Grenada?

A. Well, I think this is an ongoing debate that will continue for a long time to come.

As young people, we put a great deal of trust and confidence in the revolutionary process and consequently in the future.

Many of us went out of Grenada to study, confident that we were going to return to build a new and just society. This is what the revolution set out to build — to eliminate exploitation and oppression in

the country, to give adequate health, housing, and education to the majority of Grenadian people. But literally, overnight, all of this was destroyed.

We have a clear position. Maurice Bishop represented the most sincere wishes of the Grenadian people to build a new society, especially after the years of exploitation we had suffered under the dictator [Eric] Gairy.

The reason for the downfall of the revolution was the personal ambition and the dogmatism of a group of people within the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement who were bent on attaining power. Of course, you know that this group was led by Bernard Coard. They were motivated more by greed and personal ambition rather than putting the interests of the Grenadian people before themselves.

Coard and others were subsequently tried and convicted in the Grenadian courts — under the auspices of the invading forces, under the auspices of imperialism.

But at the same time we fully believe that they were the ones responsible.

We do not believe that they were revolutionaries. We believe that they were counterrevolutionaries.

Maurice Bishop represented the symbol of freedom and independence, not only for the Grenadian people but for all the peoples of the Caribbean and the Third World.

In four and a half years he had attained tremendous international respect and prestige and the revolution, as a consequence of this, had won prestige and admiration worldwide.

When he died, the revolution died with him and left in its wake a people who are right now disoriented, overwhelmed by the forces of imperialism, with little immediate hope for the future.

We, however, believe that even in death, Maurice Bishop still represents the symbol for our struggle because he represented one who stood up to imperialism, one who was able to say no to them — that we want to be independent, we want our right to self-determination, we want to build a new and just society for all of the Grenadian people. We no longer want to be exploited, and we want to have our own friends. We want to develop relations with all of the countries we desire, that we must not be dictated to.

These are the things that we have lost. Today we are once more in a situation where we are dependent, we are subservient. We have lost that respect that we had gained during the revolutionary period.

Nicaragua's example

Q. What about Nicaragua? What has been the impact of that revolution throughout the region?

A. There was one time when Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua were united and regarded as the giants of the region. The three giants.

In the wake of the downfall of the Grenada revolution, it means that today, apart from Cuba, which has had more than 27 years of revolution, the only country standing up to imperialism is Nicaragua.

Let's face it, in the years that we have

been tied to the capitalist system, in the years that we have been dominated by imperialism, we have really nothing to show for it.

In fact, what we have to show for it is high unemployment. We have drugs. We have inadequate housing, improper health care.

Nicaragua today represents the symbol of freedom and independence for struggling Third World peoples.

Of course, in the Caribbean, in Latin America, in Central America, with all that's happened, the struggling and progressive forces in the region have realized once and for all what imperialism is capable of doing.

Certainly in El Salvador, the struggle has increased because of this. There is a greater sense of vigilance as to what our role should be. It is important for us to stand up at all costs to imperialism.

But it is Cuba that has given the greatest example. All you have to do is walk around and see the level of development that the people have obtained in such a short time — only 27 years.

Compared with many of the Latin American countries, Cuba has come a long way in terms of eliminating many of the social, economic, and political problems that other countries face. Today, the right to education, the right to quality health care, the right to work — all of these things are guaranteed by the Cuban revolution.

For us, it is important that a process like the Nicaraguan process is there because it means that others are on their way to accomplishing the same things as Cuba.

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In court fight over FBI files, gov't claims right to spy on all

On Aug. 25, 1986 federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the FBI's decades-long spying and disruption operation against the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance was unconstitutional and illegal. This decision came in response to a lawsuit the SWP and YSA filed against the FBI in 1973.

Griesa stated that a further hearing would decide the scope of an injunction barring the government from using material obtained by such methods. The SWP and YSA presented the judge with their proposal, which would forbid any use of the files by the government.

The Justice Department and 11 other government agencies filed affidavits arguing that barring the use of illegally obtained files on the SWP and YSA would seriously hamper their work. (See March 27, 1987, *Militant*).

On April 21 Leonard Boudin, attorney for the SWP and YSA, filed a memorandum replying to the affidavits. The memorandum dissects the Justice Department's argument that the use of illegally obtained materials on the SWP and YSA is vital to national security. Government lawyers say that these materials are necessary for "loyalty" investigations of individuals and for the protection of the president, other government officials, and foreign dignitaries.

Last week the *Militant* began serializing the document, running the introduction and Part A of the first section, which argued that the spy files were obtained illegally. This week we are running Part B of the first section.

B. The Attorney General Found in 1976 There Was No Need for Collecting Any Current Information on the SWP, YSA, or Their Members and Supporters and Therefore There Can Be No Need Today for Using Outdated Information

In 1976, over the FBI's strenuous objections, the Attorney General terminated the investigation of the SWP and YSA. Attempting to convince the Attorney General to continue the investigation, the FBI argued, *inter alia* [among other things], that if the investigation was terminated "the entire purpose or essence of the Government's loyalty-security programs would be voided...."

The FBI's argument, then rejected by its superior the Attorney General, is identical to the argument today asserted by the Department of Justice. The defendants are in the awkward position of declaring no need since 1976 for any investigation, much less

one using illegal means, to gather ongoing current information, and of arguing here that using information that is now at least 11 years old (and most much older) serves a legitimate government interest overriding the plaintiffs' constitutional rights. But if there is no legitimate need for compiling current information, there can hardly be a need for continued use of stale information.

Indeed, the defendants essentially admitted as much at trial. As the court [Judge Griesa] pointed out in its opinion, "[a] witness from the OPM [Office of Personnel Management] testified at the trial that his agency regards the FBI's information on the SWP as stale. OPM policy is that membership in the SWP or YSA no longer raises a loyalty issue."

The defendants, apparently recognizing the emptiness of their claim that these old records directly serve any legitimate purpose today, argue that all information, however dated, *might* be needed in the future as "leads" in an investigation.

This argument is flawed. First, nothing in the records shows anything other than legal and constitutionally protected activity by the plaintiffs. Second, after a 40-year investigation, the government has no basis to assert that either support of, affiliation with, or membership in the SWP or YSA is a useful or rational predictor that an individual will do anything illegal.

The record shows "[t]here was not one single prosecution of any member of the SWP or YSA for any terrorist or revolutionary act of any kind. No evidence was introduced at the trial that any SWP or YSA member ever carried on any such activities." By 1958, there was "no reason to believe that it [the FBI] would find material relating to anything other than lawful pursuits, and this is all that it did find."

The record shows the lawful nature of the SWP and YSA activities:

"The SWP and its leaders have consistently taken strong positions against terrorism...."

"As to whether the SWP practices violence, the evidence in this action compels a finding that it does not."

Perhaps most damaging to the defendants' argument is the Attorney General's 1976 memorandum to FBI Director Kelley terminating the investigation. Despite all of the FBI's arguments, including the argument of a need for a permanently expanding reservoir of information concerning the SWP and those associated with it, the Attorney General found that the information presented by the FBI and CIA did not "constitute specific and articulable facts giving reason to believe the Socialist Workers Party will engage in violence in the fore-

seeable future.... There is no evidence of conduct that would justify an investigation under the foreign counterintelligence guidelines."

Since the FBI could not convince the Attorney General that there was anything in the files to require further investigation, it is not open to the government to argue today that the illegally obtained records may in fact reveal something of legitimate concern.

The government lamely offers as an "example" a hypothetical need to use illegally obtained information to determine "whether a candidate for security clearance [who denies] past SWP membership" is lying when information from a black bag job "shows him to have been an active member in 1976 or earlier."¹ Assuming, *arguendo* [in the course of the argument], the doubtful relevance of such vintage information, there is no basis in the record to conclude that if asked under oath, any individual would lie about his or her prior membership in the SWP.

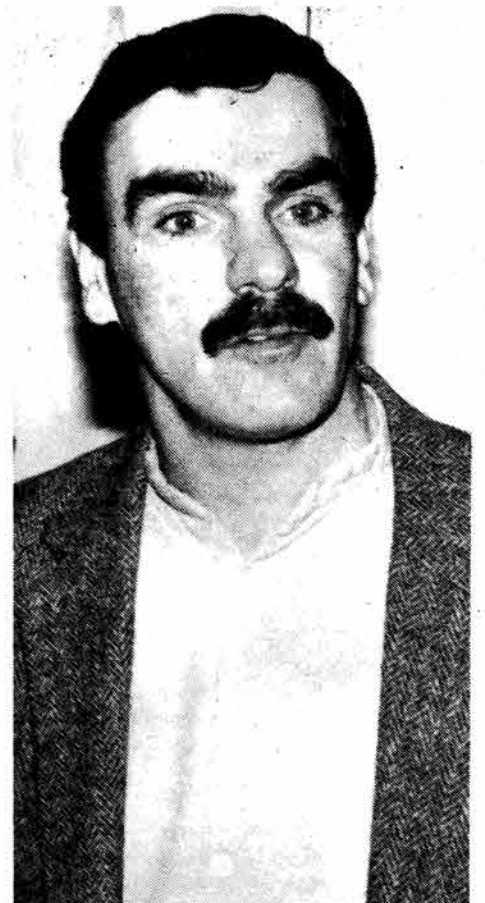
The government has never shown that any individual ever failed to disclose his or her membership when required by law, or that there is any realistic basis to assume that it would happen in the future or that any SWP or YSA member has ever been charged for failure to disclose such information.

The defendants' argument here boils down to an illogical one: the government must maintain freedom to use information obtained illegally because a hypothetical individual may lie in a hypothetical future inquiry.

Defendants' argument goes further than mere illogic. The "national security interests" allow, indeed require, the defendants to collect and maintain *all* information on *everyone* who may in the future apply for a job with the government or an employer with military contracts: "the public interest is best served" say the defendants "when all information pertinent to the subject of an investigation is available so that the decision-making process is an informed one."

The defendants' argument fails because the asserted need here is simply indistinguishable from a need to maintain and use files on the general population. Under the defendants' theory everyone is a potential job applicant, a potential spy, a potential perjurer, and a potential threat to an individual under Secret Service protection. Under this theory, the government has a right, indeed a duty, to keep track of all of us by using records it obtained through theft, informers, and other illegal means. To the defendants the need to use this reservoir of information outweighs all other values. Suffice it to say, that no court has ever endorsed such a proposition and this Court has ruled to the contrary in this case.

This Court has found that the SWP engaged only in peaceful and constitutionally protected activity and that "any indication that the SWP or YSA has a current pro-



Militant
James Barrett, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 8751, speaks at Boston rally in support of fight to win injunction barring government from using millions of files illegally gathered on Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

gram of carrying out violent revolution or acts of violence or terrorism would not reflect the presently known facts."

Whatever inquiries might arise in the future, membership in the SWP or YSA prior to 1976 is no more relevant to loyalty or security, let alone criminal investigations, than membership in the Democratic or Republican parties.

If the Attorney General in 1976 and this court in 1986 found that there was no basis for FBI investigation of the SWP and YSA, the defendants cannot now claim the need for continuing access to millions of pages of illegally obtained files in order to look for decades-old possible "leads."

This, of course, does not mean that defendants cannot make "legitimate inquiry about the actions and attitudes of an individual to the extent that they bear on relevant questions of loyalty and security." But when they do so, the means chosen must not only further a compelling state interest but must be the means least restrictive of freedoms of belief and association.

To argue that defendants must be able to use the illegally obtained records because some day someone may apply for a job with the government or in a plant with military contracts does not show a compelling interest. To use records obtained illegally and in violation of the First and Fourth Amendments in pursuit of this nebulous interest is not the least restrictive means; it is the most restrictive means because it assures that the defendants can continue to exploit the illegally obtained records.²

2. It is important to remember that the government may always return to this Court, on notice to plaintiffs for a modification of the injunction should an occasion arise when it can show that it has a real and immediate need and that it can justify its use under the applicable law.

'We need the right to organize': Boston meeting backs anti-FBI suit

BY RICHARD CAHALANE

BOSTON — "Our activity is legal," declared Beverly Treumann, director of Nuevo Instituto de Centro America (NICA), "and it's protected by the Bill of Rights. That's why this case is so important."

She was chairing a March 28 meeting, held at the Service Employees International Union Local 1475 meeting hall, to support the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against FBI and other government political spying. The meeting was sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, and more than \$1,500 was pledged or donated to the PRDF at the gathering.

Treumann has firsthand experience of government harassment. NICA offices have been broken into on several occasions under circumstances that point to government involvement.

She introduced Christopher Hedges, New England regional coordinator of the PRDF. He read greetings from Carol Doherty, former president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association and director of the Coalition for Choice, which supports the right to legal abortion. He also presented greetings from Paul Shannon,

editor of the *Indochina Newsletter*.

"We've won the sponsorship of more than 100 people in the New England area in the past few months," said Hedges. He cited the executive boards of United Steelworkers of America Local 8751 and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 470; Abe Morochnick, chief steward of Service Employees Local 509; and Dave Slaney, president of Steelworkers Local 2431.

Alan West of the Central American Solidarity Association, another target of unsolved break-ins, also spoke in support of the suit against the government.

Doug Butler, member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, recalled the "insidious" role of government spying in earlier battles for civil rights.

Also on the panel was John Studer, executive director of the PRDF.

James Barrett, president of Steelworkers Local 8751 (made up of Boston school bus drivers), described something he learned as a VISTA volunteer, as a worker, and as a union builder. "We need rights," he said. "We need the right to organize and the right to strike. And we have to defend these rights. It's still true — an injury to one is an injury to all."

Join the fight for democratic rights . . .

Help the Political Rights Defense Fund protect the Bill of Rights. Support the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against government spying.

- Contribute to the \$90,000 fund
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Send to: Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003

U.S. government crisis reaches new stage

Continued from front page

was killed while "taking measurements for a dam that was to provide electrical power for the village of San José de Bocay" and noted contra threats that workers on such humanitarian projects will continue to be targets.

The attempts to cover up for the contras not only contradicted the facts, but ran counter to the identification that U.S. workers and farmers, and all progressive-minded persons, feel with the efforts of volunteers like Linder to use their skills to make life better for others. Through identifying with Linder, they are also recognizing the Nicaraguan revolution's attempts to improve the social and economic welfare of workers and farmers.

The virtual explosion of sympathy for Linder and his family and outrage against the contras shows that the U.S. population is "war weary by anticipation," a description used several months ago by Colorado Rep. Patricia Schroeder.

The killing comes in the context of the governmental crisis in Washington that has been boiling since the Iran-contra scandal broke last November.

New stage in government crisis

This crisis has entered a new stage with the beginning of nationally televised congressional hearings on the scandals May 5. This opens a process in which people will watch daily as government officials, former officials, and other witnesses testify about the Reagan administration's secret operations to continue a war opposed by the great majority of the U.S. population. And as each day goes by, they will see the responsibility for the illegal operation increasingly placed on President Reagan himself.

The first witness was retired U.S. Air Force general Richard Secord. He described being recruited by former National Security Council official Oliver North to set up a network to secretly arm the contras. He told about meetings with former CIA director William Casey on how to ad-

vance the war, and he insisted that he had been told that Vice-president Bush knew of the covert operation to arm the mercenaries.

"We believed very much," said Secord, "that our conduct was in furtherance of the president's policies. I also understood that this administration knew of my conduct and approved it."

Although he is sometimes portrayed as a free-lance adventurer, Secord has been involved in covert operations directed by the U.S. government for more than two decades. He operated in South Vietnam as an adviser to the government Washington set up there, helped run a secret air war against Laos during the war in Indochina, headed up the 1,000-man Air Force assistance group aiding the brutal regime of the shah of Iran before the Iranian revolution, and served for a time under Reagan as deputy assistant secretary of defense.

'High officials' may be indicted

Federal special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh has indicated that "high government officials" may soon face indictment. In an April 28 report to Congress, Walsh described "ongoing investigations" of the White House, the office of Vice-president Bush, and eight other federal agencies and offices. Among them are the Department of State, Justice Department, and the CIA.

The first prosecution stemming from the scandals occurred April 29 when Carl Channell, head of the right-wing National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty, pleaded guilty to charges of tax fraud. He admitted illegally using a tax-exempt foundation to raise money to arm the contras.

The charges against Channell also cited Oliver North "and others known and unknown" as co-conspirators.

Some of those who served as point men for the administration in the war against Nicaragua are now refusing to take the fall for the higher-ups. Lewis Tambs, who recently resigned as U.S. ambassador to

Costa Rica when his role in arming and helping organize the contras was made public, told the May 3 *New York Times*: "The people who gave us the orders are trying to paint us as running amok. It's insane."

Tambs said his instructions came from the Restricted Interagency Group, a government body that included North; Alan Fiers, head of the CIA Central American Task Force; and Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams.

'Reagan knew what was happening'

As ever higher figures in the administration are implicated, the issue of the responsibility of Reagan himself is becoming an ever more central issue. Senator Daniel Inouye, Democrat from Hawaii, who chairs the Senate committee investigation, commented, "People have suggested that [Reagan] was getting old and he didn't know what was happening. What we're saying is that from what we have seen in some of the notes [in his diary], he knew what was happening."

After years of loudly identifying himself with efforts to back the contra war, Reagan has retreated to the feeble and incredible claim that he knew only that money was being raised for pro-contra television advertisements.

The response to the murder of Ben Linder has further undermined Reagan's efforts to duck responsibility for the crimes of his administration. As David Linder, Ben's father, pointed out, responsibility for the slaying goes "down the line to the president of the United States."

The crisis in Washington has punctured the pretense that the administration was pursuing a "Reagan doctrine" enabling it to roll back popular freedom struggles in Central America, southern Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. The resistance of U.S. working people to new Vietnam wars has not only not been overcome, but has deepened. It was to get around this opposition that the administration launched the "covert," "private" war that has now mired it in scandal.

Part of this crisis is the failure of the Reagan administration's stepped-up efforts to further isolate Cuba diplomatically and economically. Or to force Cuba's revolutionary government to make any accommodations to Washington in either domestic or foreign policies.

In the face of the defeats being dealt to the Reagan administration's war against Nicaragua, not a single leading Democrat in Congress has proposed a clear alternative policy. None proposes to end the contra war once and for all and recognize Nicaragua's right to self-determination. None calls on the U.S. government to aid the Nicaraguan government's efforts — unprecedented in that country's history — to raise the living standards and culture of the population.

But the response of U.S. working people to the murder of Ben Linder shows that millions want an end now to the use of U.S. dollars to slaughter Nicaraguans and those who aid them. They want the U.S. government to aid the efforts of the Nicaraguan government and people to build a better future.

Ortega addresses Linder's funeral

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was "a U.S. citizen who, full of love and joy, gave his life for the Nicaraguan peasants."

"He did not arrive on a flight carrying arms or millions of dollars," Ortega said. "He came on a flight loaded with dreams that were born of his conviction that the ethical values of the U.S. people are much higher than the illegal policy of the U.S. government. He showed that the U.S. people are a noble people, that they are the enemy of those who assassinate children, women, youth, and Nicaraguan peasants."

David Linder told the crowd that his son had "wanted to go someplace where he could help people" after graduating as an engineer.

"He chose Nicaragua, fresh into its revolution for freedom, where the important thing is people and what you can do to help them. He came to learn from the convictions of this people and he gave his life for your ideals. I and my family are proud to have Ben come to rest in your city."

The next day, Ben Linder's sister and

brother, Miriam and John, and two close friends were guests of honor at the big May Day rally in Managua. They shared the platform with national trade union leaders and Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leaders Víctor Tirado, Bayardo Arce, and Jaime Wheelock.

The tens of thousands of trade unionists who packed the Plaza of the Revolution were visibly moved and paid close attention as Miriam and John Linder addressed the rally. The crowd repeatedly interrupted them with applause, and many workers could be heard commenting "that's right" and "that's true" as they spoke.

Miriam Linder said, "We try to imagine the pain we feel multiplied by the thousands who have given their lives in the revolution and in the continuing fight for the freedom of Nicaragua."

"This war must end and it must end now! The people of Nicaragua must be allowed the opportunity to create the country of freedom of which they dream."

Speaking in Spanish and English, John Linder said that "the people of the United States, the youth, the workers, the farmers, want peace" with Nicaragua, not war.

The weapons that killed his brother and two Nicaraguans "were paid for and delivered by the U.S. government," he said. "The attack was planned by the U.S. government."

"It is a crime that the U.S. government, speaking in the name of democracy, is waging a war against the interests of the big majority of the U.S. people. In the United States and throughout the world, the death of my brother has given rise to redoubled voices saying 'No aid to the contras!' and 'Let Nicaragua live in peace!'"

"With the solidarity of the people of the world, and especially the people of my country, you will win," he concluded, to prolonged applause.

Víctor Tirado addressed the rally on behalf of the FSLN National Directorate. He said Ben Linder represents the future of U.S.-Nicaraguan relations and is a symbol of the "spirit of democracy, solidarity, and internationalism" of the U.S. people.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

CIA training of Honduran torturers

Honduran army "interrogation" teams trained by the CIA systematically kidnapped, tortured, and killed hundreds of Hondurans, according to Florencio Caballero, a former interrogator.

In interviews with the *New York Times* and members of Americas Watch, a U.S. human-rights organization, Caballero estimated that nearly 200 suspected leftists were murdered in this way between 1980 and 1984.

He said the captives were tortured by "as many electric prods on their genitals as necessary," as well as by submersion in a barrel of freezing water, sexual humiliation, beatings, and not being allowed to sleep. "All talked and all were killed," Caballero said.

In 1979, Caballero said, he was sent to Houston, Texas, where CIA instructors taught him how to use sleep deprivation, cold, and isolation against prisoners.

The CIA, formally claimed that it opposed the use of torture. But as Caballero and several other Honduran and U.S. sources indicated to the *New York Times*, CIA officials were well aware of the tortures and killings.

Caballero also confirmed that several dozen leftist guerrillas and a U.S. priest, James Carney, were captured alive in 1983 and then killed. At the time, the Honduran army and U.S. embassy claimed most of the guerrillas had been killed in combat and that Carney died of exposure in the jungle.

Caballero said he questioned several of the captured guerrillas before they were shot. "The orders from the army high command were to take no more prisoners," he said. "The American priest was killed."

Fiji weighs curbs on U.S. nuclear ships

The new government of the South Pacific country of Fiji is studying various options to cut off port access to nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships, Foreign Minister Krishna Datt declared April 29. This could apply, in particular, to U.S. navy ships, several of which

dock in the island group each year.

The new government of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, a coalition of the National Federation Party and the Labor Party, was elected April 12. One of its campaign pledges had been to ban U.S. nuclear warships from Fiji. It defeated the right-wing government of Ratu Kamisese Mara, who had been in power since Fiji gained its independence from Britain in 1970.

As in other South Pacific countries, there has been considerable opposition in Fiji to ongoing nuclear testing in the region. This was heightened by Washington's announcement in February that it would not sign an agreement adopted by a number of South Pacific countries calling for an end to such testing.

U.S., Bolivian troops in joint maneuvers

The government of Bolivia announced April 13 that about 300 U.S. Marines from the Southern Command, based in Panama, would participate in joint military maneuvers with Bolivian forces in May. U.S. fighter planes would also take part.

The exercises, called "Bol-USA-3," will take place in the jungle zones bordering Peru. The Bolivian government has expressed concern about possible activities in the region by Peru's Shining Path guerrilla movement.

Ecuadoran legislator hits U.S. troop presence

Enrique Ayala, vice-president of Ecuador's Congress, has publicly criticized the arrival of some 6,000 U.S. soldiers in that country.

Ayala, a member of the Ecuadoran Socialist Party, said the U.S. troops would occupy parts of eastern Ecuador and of the coastal region of Manabí Province under the guise of rebuilding some of the roads destroyed by the recent earthquake.

Ayala noted that historically, U.S. military support for the Ecuadoran government has brought repression. He said the arrival of the troops harms Ecuador's national sovereignty.

From Pathfinder Press

Apartheid's Great Land Theft: The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa by Ernest Harsch.

Tells the story of the fight over land, which has been at the center of the struggle between South Africa's white rulers and its subjugated Black majority.

It is available at the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 12) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. 56 pp., \$1.25. Please include \$.75 for handling.

THE GREAT SOCIETY

Subversion in Indiana — State Dept. pointman Elliott Abrams waged a furious arm-twisting campaign to get Indiana businessmen



Harry Ring

and politicians to cancel an invite to Fidel Castro. To promote the Pan American Games in In-

dianapolis next August, the mayor was planning a baseball game between his staff and Fidel's. Meanwhile, the Cuban president indicated he couldn't make it.

Should have thrown the key away — A San Francisco investment banking house threw a dinner bash for 600 corporate execs in a cellblock at Alcatraz Island. The former federal maximum security pen is now being promoted as a park.

Can't take it with you? — With deft assurance, Beatson Wallace answers investors' questions

in the *Boston Globe*. But one recent query proved a stumper: Q. In the event of a nuclear war between the United States and USSR and other countries, where is the best place to keep or invest money? A. You will have to pose that kind of question to some contemporary Solomon.

And yet they both got caught — "Spitz is a wonderful sideshow. He has a limousine, gets up at noon, and then conducts business over lunch for hours. Someone like Ollie North has no life style. He just gets up and goes to work every day." — Jared Cameron, PR

man for indicted right-wing fundraiser Carl "Spitz" Channell.

What the hell, nobody will notice — The government's Hanford nuke reservation in Washington, which processes plutonium for nuclear weapons, has been spewing carbon tetrachloride into the air and doing nothing to stop it — 20 tons in two years of the colorless, poisonous liquid that the government labels a "suspected" carcinogen.

Ultimate answer to imports — Half the states now permit private

employers to hire prison inmates at prison wages. In Florida, shoes and furniture are being made for state agencies by inmates getting 55 cents to \$1.10 an hour. That's not so cheap, an official said. "We're competing against Hong Kong and Korea."

Keeping up with the Yuppies Joneses — "LAWN PAINTING. Tired of your lawn being the same color as everyone else's? Let me custom color paint it now. Be the first on your block." — Ad in Falmouth-Mashpee, Mass. throw-away.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

What We Can Learn from Platoon. A panel discussion. Speakers: Rick Trujillo, Vietnam veteran, member Amalgamated Transit Workers Union and Socialist Workers Party; Ruben Gomez, Vietnam veteran, peace activist, and member of Veterans for Peace. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Protest the Murder of Ben Linder: Join the Brigades to Nicaragua. Speakers: Dave Brown, Southern California coordinator for brigades to Nicaragua; others to be announced. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

The Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Law: Why It Is an Attack on All Working People. Speakers: Olga Rodriguez, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Issues in the "Baby M" Court Case. Speaker: Kate Daher, chairperson Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 2365. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Latin American Debt Crisis. Speaker: Nelson González, Socialist Workers Party, United Steelworkers of America Local 3384. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

Youth Say No to U.S. War in Central America and Support to Apartheid. Translation to Spanish. Two classes: 1. The Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions Today — the Truth. Wed., May 13, 5:30 p.m. 2. Malcolm X: Lessons for Revolutionaries Today. Wed., May 20, 5:30 p.m. Youth Speak Out: Young Socialist Alliance Forum. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. All events sponsored by Young Socialist Alliance. Rides provided. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Burkina Faso: Eyewitness Account of an African Revolution. Speakers: Jean Diasso, charge d'affaires, Burkina Faso embassy. Ernest Harsch, staff writer for the *Militant*, recently returned from three-week trip to Burkina Faso. Sat., May 16, reception and dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2, dinner, \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

A Visit to Cuba. Slideshow report. Speaker: John Cotman, Ford Foundation fellow. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Clouded Land. Celebrate Minnesota Indian month. Film by Minnesota filmmaker Randy Croce on Indian land rights. Speaker: John Morin of Anishinabe Akeeng of White Earth Reservation. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Youth Speak Out. Panel discussion among participants in April 25 antiwar, anti-apartheid demonstration in Washington, D.C. Speakers: Derek Bracey, chairperson Young Socialist Alliance; Ted Kayser, member United Auto Workers Local 2250 and student at Washington University; Tanja, high school student. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. YSA fundraising dinner, 6 p.m. Party to follow forum. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

Issues in the "Baby M" Court Case. Speakers to be announced. Sat., May 16, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Protest Attack on Immigrant Workers: Government's Phony "Amnesty" Bill. Speakers:

Héctor Marroquín, Socialist Workers Party member fighting deportation for his political views; others to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Annandale-on-Hudson

The U.S. Political Situation and Working-class Perspectives. Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party. Thurs., May 14, 7 p.m. Committee Room of Kline Commons, Bard College. Donation: \$1. Sponsor: Mid-Hudson Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (914) 758-0408 or 757-5411.

Manhattan

Issues in the "Baby M" Case: What Position Should Working People Take? Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, *Militant* staff writer. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Youth Speak Out Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and Apartheid in South Africa. Speakers: representative, African National Congress Youth Section; representative, Anti-Nuclear Group Representing the Young (ANGRY); representative, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 15, dinner 6:30 p.m., program, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Issues in the "Baby M" Court Case. Speakers to be announced. Sun., May 10, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

The Soviet Union: Its Real Role in World Politics. Speaker: Jim Wright, political activist who visited the Soviet Union in 1985. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

UTAH

Price

The Unions' Stake in the Fight Against the

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Contragate-Vietnam: What's the Connection? Speakers: Bui Xuan Nhat, ambassador to United Nations, Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Barry Romo, national coordinator, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Eddie Demmings, National Conference of Black Lawyers. Sun., May 17, 2 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos. For more information call (718) 643-0201.

U.S. Contra War and South African Apartheid. Speakers to be announced. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Rm. 19. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Behind the Assassination of Ben Linder. A panel discussion. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

March and Rally Against Klan Violence. Sat., May 9, noon. Assemble at Martin Luther King Center, march to Flack Plaza.

Pathfinder Bookstore Open House. Hear taped speeches by Malcolm X. Sat., May 9, 3 p.m. 116 McFarland St., Sponsor: Pathfinder. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action: Victory Against Job Segregation. Speakers: Steve Starks, editor *Beacon Digest*; Joanne Murphy, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., May 10, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

Eyewitness Reports and Slideshow from El Salvador. Speakers: Dave Evans, Vietnam veteran and director of the prosthetics program of Medical Aid for El Salvador; Kipp Dawson, member United Mine Workers of America, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 16, dinner, 6:30 p.m., program, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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Louis: SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA: Omaha: SWP, YSA, 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Barrytown: YSA, c/o Ben Fiering, Barrytown Hotel. Zip: 12507. Tel: (914) 758-0408. **Capital District (Albany):** SWP, YSA, 114E Quail St. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. Pathfinder Books, 226-8445. **Stony Brook:** YSA, c/o Jordy Rockowitz, Wagner 120, Stony Brook College. Zip: 11794.

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OHIO: Athens: c/o Jake Hiles, 189 1/2 W. Washington, Apt. A. Zip: 45701. Tel: (614) 594-8450. **Cincinnati:** SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W. Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OKLAHOMA: Edmond: YSA, c/o Ricky Garcia, 1308 N. Blvd. F-46. Zip: 73033. Tel: (405) 340-3868.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, c/o Mark Mateja, Edinboro University of Pa. Zip: 16412. Tel: (814) 398-2574. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Almeda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Marroquín wins temporary work permit

Continued from front page

fled political persecution there in 1974. Arrested here in 1977, he applied for political asylum. Supported by the Political Rights Defense Fund, his case was pursued all the way to the Supreme Court. But in 1983, that body upheld the denial of asylum to Marroquín by refusing to review the case.

Waiting for green card

Married to a U.S. citizen, Priscilla Schenk, Marroquín then applied for legal residency — a "green card." His application has been pending and unanswered for four years.

Meanwhile, support for his fight has assumed impressive proportions. This was indicated by the Political Rights Defense Fund supporters who accompanied Marroquín to the immigration office.

These included Guillermo Chavez, director of the Political and Human Rights Department of the United Methodist Church, and Sister Elizabeth Kelliher, of the Labor and Religious Coalition.

Holding a placard demanding, "Amnesty for Héctor Marroquín now!" was veteran Irish activist George Harrison. Kathy Andrade, education director of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25, also came to support Marroquín.

A number of prominent figures sent statements of support, including Ernesto Jofre, coordinator of the New York area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, and two members of Congress, Esteban Torres and Mickey Leland.

Also accompanying Marroquín was John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund; Marroquín's lawyer, Claudia Slovinsky; and Priscilla Schenk.

Studer told reporters that the INS would have a difficult political, legal problem if it tried to deny amnesty to Marroquín.

He explained that last August the Socialist Workers Party had won a suit against various government agencies, including the INS, for political victimization.

SWP not 'proscribed'

The court decision, Studer said, specifically provided that membership in the party could not be used to deny immigration relief.

He explained that the INS had considered listing the SWP as a "proscribed" organization, whose members and supporters would be liable to deportation under terms of the McCarran-Walter thought-control immigration statute, which bars promotion of "world communism."

Broad support for Marroquín's right to remain in U.S.

NEW YORK — Among those issuing statements of support for Héctor Marroquín was Esteban Torres, member of Congress from California. He said any refusal by the Immigration and Naturalization Service "to swiftly grant Mr. Marroquín legal status in this country could only stem from an improper desire to victimize him further because of his political opinions."

Marroquín's application "will be an important test case for the new amnesty law," Torres said.

Joining in was Ernesto Jofre, a New York business agent for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and coordinator of the New York area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

Jofre said he was concerned that Marroquín "win this fight, which can mark a historical precedent at this juncture for the rights of immigrants and the trade union movement."

Guillermo Chavez, director of the Political and Human Rights Department of the United Methodist Church, released a statement from the church explaining, "The case of Mr. Héctor Marroquín Manríquez demonstrates that, once again, the immigration laws in the United States rather than supply the necessary remedy to the immigration problems in this country, have

But, Studer added, when Judge Thomas Griesa issued his decision in the case, he said the INS had informed him it had dropped any plan to "proscribe" the SWP.

Long interview

When the line of applicants waiting in the street was finally escorted upstairs, they discovered that a church-organized group had been brought in another entrance, by special arrangement with the INS, and was being issued numbers one through 30.

Marroquín found himself in this line and obtained number 27. After paying his \$185 filing fee, with a required certified check, his application form was accepted.

But when his interview number came up, his application had, inexplicably, been lost. Fortunately, Marroquín had several additional copies.

After a wait of several hours, he was called in for his preliminary interview. For most applicants, this took about 20 minutes. In Marroquín's case, it took an hour and a half.

Among other things, the application form requires listing all organizations of which the applicant is a member, "to assist in establishing the required residence."

In response, Marroquín listed the Socialist Workers Party, which seemed to be a sticking point for the interviewer. Finally a supervisor materialized and decided this was not a barrier to recommending Marroquín for temporary residence and granting him a work ID.

While waiting to be photographed and receive the ID card, Marroquín was interviewed by more members of the media, with the Spanish-language press and TV showing particular interest in his case.

Asked about the fact that the application form was available only in English, Marroquín responded, "I think it's an act of arrogance, an act of discrimination. I think it should have been in Spanish, French, the Asian languages, and any other languages the people of this country speak."

'Will intensify discrimination'

Discussing the plight of the great majority of undocumented immigrants, those who don't qualify for amnesty, Marroquín said, "I think it will intensify the discrimination. I don't think it will stop immigrants from coming in or bosses from hiring them."

"It's just going to make the undocumented more vulnerable. The employers will use the supposed threat of a fine to pay you even less than they used to."

Earlier in the day, INS Commissioner Alan Nelson came to the office to hold a press conference. On his way to the brief-

become what appears to be an exclusionary tactic against those persons whose political views seem to differ from the norm."

Eleanor Furman of the Bill of Rights Foundation urged the INS to grant Marroquín legal residence and "put to rest serious questions of past discrimination."

Mickey Leland, member of Congress from Texas, noted that Marroquín clearly qualifies for amnesty and added, "I will continue to monitor his situation until his case is resolved."

Constance Gilbert-Neiss, a leader of the National Organization for Women in New Jersey, said denial of Marroquín's application "would be a travesty of the democracy we all cherish."

A statement declaring that turning down Marroquín's claim would be "a serious attack on democratic rights... and a blow to the rights of all undocumented immigrants" included Jerome Audige of the New Jersey Haitian/American Cultural Foundation; Lawrence Hamm, chair, New Jersey Rainbow Coalition; David Cline, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Mary Dunlevy, Teamsters Local 877; Rev. Canon Henry L. Atkins, Episcopal chaplain, Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Valerie Caffee, District 65, United Auto Workers human rights director; and Karen Walden, Peace Center of Central New Jersey.



Militant/Martin Koppel

Héctor Marroquín being interviewed by reporters at INS offices

ing room, he had to make his way past a circle of reporters, camera people, and photographers grouped around Marroquín.

Avoids issue

At the news conference, Nelson was asked about Marroquín: Could he be denied amnesty because he's a socialist?

Dodging the question, Nelson said, "We're not going to discuss individual cases, particularly cases of political asylum."

"In general," he was asked, "can people be denied amnesty for being socialists?"

Dodging again, the commissioner responded, "We're not going to discuss individual cases." He went on to note that existing immigration law provides for exclusion "if you advocate the violent overthrow of the American government, or if

you're working for any violent cause."

In response to an earlier question, Nelson said no one will be denied amnesty "for their beliefs."

Asked by a radio interviewer to comment on this, Marroquín said, "I surely hope so. The right to freedom of political association should not be denied to anyone because of color, sex, or national origin."

With his work authorization card in hand, Marroquín said his next step was to obtain a social security number so he could get a job, become a union activist, and press the fight for a better world.

And he announced that when he finally wins his residency, he will "follow the example of Ben Linder and volunteer for a brigade to help build a better life for the workers and farmers of Nicaragua."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 13, 1977

In a protest against steep rent increases, thousands of Black high school students demonstrated in Soweto April 27. The protests were called by the Soweto Students Representative Council (SRC), which initiated many of the mass Black protests that swept South Africa last year.

According to one report, "At Morris Isaacson high school in Orlando, police estimated that 2,000 students gathered early this morning. Many carried angry banners declaring: 'We will not pay,' and 'Away with capitalism.'"

Leaders of the SRC had planned a peaceful march to the white administrative offices in Soweto to protest the rent hike, but police riot vans stopped them.

The actions were sparked by a government announcement that rents on all homes in Soweto, which are government owned, would be raised by 40 to 80 percent by May 1. The notice of the rent hikes came at a time when Soweto's poverty-ridden population was already facing additional hardships. Unemployment among Blacks throughout the country is estimated at more than 1 million and is rising by about 15,000 persons a month. Earlier this year, the regime approved sharp increases in the rail fares paid by Soweto's 220,000 commuters.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

May 14, 1962

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., May 7 — The weather is fine and there are lots of big-name speakers, banquets, and parties here at the 18th constitutional convention of the United Auto Workers. But in terms of serious union politics and debate this is by all odds the quietest — "dullest" is the word used by many experienced observers —

convention in the UAW's 25-year history.

The biggest of the big-name guest speakers is President John Kennedy, and the dominant feature of the nine-day convention is the support by UAW President Walter Reuther for the Kennedy administration and the subordination of the policies of the union to Kennedy's national and international program, including the cold war and nuclear testing.

Concern for Kennedy's image dominates the resolutions. The civil rights resolution, for example, is in great part devoted to praising Kennedy for actions exposed even by the conservative NAACP as ineffective window dressing.

The Kennedy administration is praised in almost every resolution reported out of committee. On the surface, this is in line with the present feeling of the great majority of the delegates.

Kennedy's popularity is one factor being used by Reuther to push through a program by which the UAW's political power, and even some of its finances, will be mobilized behind Kennedy's international as well as national policies. It is also clear that the Reuther leadership looks to the Kennedy administration, rather than to the independent power of the UAW or the labor movement, for solutions to the union's major problems, including mass unemployment.

The UAW's traditional solution — the shorter workweek at no reduction in pay — has been abandoned here as a collective bargaining demand. In its place appears a resolution for a "flexible workweek" through passage of a federal law.

The central features of this convention — Reuther's policies and techniques, the mood of the delegates and the nature of the opposition — are neatly summed up in the events around one resolution. It was a proposal to divert about \$1.5 million a year to a special fund under control of the International Executive Board for use overseas.

In reporting the proposal to the Reuther caucus UAW Vice-president Leonard Woodcock said the money would be used to combat revolutionary socialist and communist tendencies in the labor movement overseas, and that in colonial areas such money could not come from the U.S. government because it would be branded as "imperialist money."

The anti-immigrant 'reform' law

On May 5, the first phase of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 went into effect.

"Control" is the relevant word in the title. "Reform" was included to prettify it, to suggest an improvement in existing immigration law. But any suggestion that it's a change for the better as far as working people are concerned is a fraud.

Héctor Marroquín, who is fighting U.S. government attempts to deport him, told reporters when he applied for legalized status that the new law is not intended to keep undocumented workers out of the United States. It is not intended to keep employers from hiring them. Nor is it a plan for a wholesale expulsion of the undocumented. Too many employers pocket lucrative added profits from the sweat of the undocumented for that.

Rather, the law's purpose is to institutionalize within the U.S. working class an entire sector with no rights, a sector of "illegal" pariahs.

Until now, the capitalist politicians and media have focused public attention on the "amnesty" provision of the new law. But even this is a sharply limited proposition loaded with Catch-22s.

Those of the undocumented ready to risk putting themselves in the hands of the justly hated Immigration and Naturalization Service cops — *la migra* — have a lot to contend with: a \$185 fee per adult family member, documentary proof of more than five years residence, proof of financial responsibility, passing a medical test, the possibility of some family members being granted legal status and others denied it, and the risk of jail if documentation is deemed fake.

Clearly, only a small minority of the undocumented will qualify for this one-time amnesty deal.

And for all the rest, the situation is much more difficult than before.

Under the new "control" act, it's a crime for an undocumented worker to hold a job. According to the INS, the law "requires all job applicants, even U.S. citizens, to present proof of authorization to work."

Birth certificates, drivers' licenses, passports, naturalization or legal residency documents will have to be submitted and a record kept in employers' files. This in a time of increasing attempts to curb democratic rights and invade privacy.

Under the law, beginning June 1, 1988 — some 13 months from now — employers who "knowingly" hire undocumented workers are subject to fines. Those deemed to be persistent offenders face, theoretically, criminal prosecution. The maximum sentence? Six months.

But workers who submit invalid documents face sub-

stantial penalties — criminal prosecution for making a false claim under oath, with the possibility of stiff fines and jail terms.

Until now, the boss demanded the undocumented accept harder work, longer hours, and lower wages because he was doing them a "favor."

Now the refrain will be, "I'm taking a big risk in having you here," and the push for even lower wages and worse living and working conditions will proceed accordingly.

Those branded illegal will continue to be subjected to ripoffs by rent-gouging slumlords, E-Z credit merchants, bribe-hungry *migra* agents, and cops.

Use of health-care facilities and other social services are a risk.

Inevitably, the discrimination spills over — legal immigrants, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Asian Americans, other citizens, will be subjected to added employment bias.

Speaking at a Chicano studies conference in Salt Lake City, Denver activist Lucia Aguilar Navarro said Chicanos will be hit because of "the color of our skin, our last names, or our accents."

And, it can be added for sure, union activists will be a particular target.

The undocumented are not "aliens." They are an integral part of the U.S. working class. The blows aimed at them divide working people and strengthen the hand of the employers and their government.

Increasingly, immigrant workers are coming to recognize that they are part of the U.S. working-class, that they have a right to be here, and that by fighting to extend the protections of the Constitution to themselves they can win support from other working people.

This determination and militancy was demonstrated by the Latino contingent in the April 25 Washington, D.C., antiwar and anti-apartheid march. A favorite chant was, "¡Estamos aquí. No nos vamos!" In English, that translates roughly into: "We are here and we're not leaving!"

Opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America has also generated support for the idea that immigrant workers and political refugees should be allowed to stay in this country. The impressive support given to Héctor Marroquín testifies to this, as does the strength of the movement for sanctuary for Central American refugees.

The union movement has a major responsibility to support and help lead the fight for full citizenship rights for all immigrants. Repeal of the reactionary immigration control law should be pressed for and every one of its targeted victims defended.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

April 25 demonstrators: 'Halt deportation of Central American refugees. We will not be moved.'

Racist killer of Chin acquitted

When a racist can club a Chinese American to death with a baseball bat in front of witnesses and not wind up behind bars, it should send a warning signal to all opponents of racist violence.

The recent acquittal of Ronald Ebens in the killing of Vincent Chin (see story on back page) is an outrage that demands response. Asian Americans have pointed out this was not an isolated case, noting incidents of anti-Asian violence and other racist acts against Asians in various parts of the country.

One current example is that of a family in New York's Chinatown. (See story on page 6.) The cops who smashed into the apartment and brutalized the family members, the Wongs and Woos, still have not been punished.

In the case of Vincent Chin, the campaign of the employers and their government to deflect attention from themselves by blaming workers in other countries for U.S. unemployment directly contributed to inciting auto

foreman Ebens to beat Chin to death.

When the courts allow such overt acts of racist violence to go unpunished, it invites more such attacks.

Unlike the U.S. rulers, the majority of people in this country — Black, white, Asian, and Latino — oppose violence directed against people because of the color of their skin, their country of origin, or the language they speak.

Eben's acquittal should be a signal to step up the fight to arrest, convict, and throw in jail every perpetrator of racist violence.

The fight to prevent future victims like Vincent Chin means demanding the conviction of Bernhard Goetz, the trigger-happy New York racist vigilante.

It means pressing for a full, vigorous prosecution of the Howard Beach lynch gang, a prosecution that will put the killers of Michael Griffith in prison.

And it means joining the fight to bring to justice the New York cops who attacked the Wong and Woo family.

Debating a conservative on the Bill of Rights

BY DOUG JENNESS

A few weeks ago, I participated in a debate on the Bill of Rights held at Davis and Elkins College, a small private school nestled in the hills of West Virginia. My opposition was William Stanmyer, director of the Lincoln Center for Legal Studies, a conservative outfit based in Arlington, Virginia.

Stanmyer, who has a law pedigree a mile long, argued that the Bill of Rights limits the powers only of federal

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

bodies, not state and local governments. He complained that it was "disturbing" that "five of the nine men and women [on the Supreme Court] can strike down the laws of the 50 states."

The kind of decisions that "disturbed" him became apparent during the debate. They included rulings against state laws that outlawed abortion, banned pornography, and permitted prayers in public schools.

I responded that his "states' rights" argument had the odor of the legal pretension used for so many years to maintain the Jim Crow system of racial segregation in the South.

Moreover, regardless of how one interprets the intentions of the Constitution's authors, the 14th Amendment, adopted in the wake of the Union military victory that brought down slavery in 1865, unambiguously affirmed, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law."

This provision, along with the other sections of the 14th Amendment, were aimed at preventing the former slaveholders from regaining influence in the southern state governments after the Civil War and at setting guidelines for the admission of new reconstruction governments.

Like the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, and the 15th Amendment, which said the right of a citizen to vote could not be denied due to race, color, or previous condition of servitude, the 14th Amendment was an extension, won through struggle, of the democratic guarantees in the Bill of Rights.

Stanmyer bemoaned court rulings of the past 25 years that have upheld, on the basis of the 14th Amendment, the right of Blacks and women to equality, including affirmative action programs in hiring and education.

"If those who passed the 14th Amendment knew what it was going to be used for, they wouldn't have passed it," he said.

That's probably true; but so what.

Since 1868, when the 14th Amendment was ratified, humanity has made some advances. As a result of battles, in which many have paid with their lives, working people have broadened the recognition of what sectors of the population are full and equal human beings and the scope of the rights and protections they are entitled to. Blacks, Latinos, undocumented workers, women, youth, the handicapped, homosexuals, veterans, and others have won increased respect and important legal guarantees of their rights. And these struggles continue.

The fact that the 14th Amendment had been won — that it was there — gave rights fighters a legal weapon. Its wording was clear: no person should be denied "equal protection of the law." And it was this that the civil rights movement and other struggles forced the courts to recognize.

Stanmyer was especially piqued at court rulings that have applied 14th Amendment rights to women. "The ERA [Equal Rights Amendment] was the way" to outlaw sexism, he said, "and it wasn't passed."

So what conclusion are we to draw — that discrimination based on sex is legal because the ERA wasn't ratified by a sufficient number of state governments?

The decade-long effort to get the ERA adopted was dropped in 1982 when 38 of the state legislatures failed to ratify it. An attempt to revive it the following year was defeated by Congress.

If the ERA had won, it would have given all those fighting for women's rights greater confidence to push ahead and break down barriers based on sex — in the workplace, in schools, in public services, etc.

But the fact is that the constitutional guarantee of equal protection for women already exists, in the 14th Amendment and other measures, despite the assertions of Stanmyer and others of his ilk.

Stanmyer pooh-poohed the Bill of Rights as "just amendments," just a "tail" on the Constitution. But for working people, these 10 amendments and the subsequent ones that have extended democratic rights, far from being the tail, are at the very heart of the Constitution. They are what we've conquered and continue to defend and fight to extend.

Nicaragua trip sparks discussion in garment shop

BY ELLIE BETH BRADY

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a work brigade to harvest coffee in Nicaragua. This was a real education — especially seeing firsthand the toll of the U.S.-backed contra war.

Almost all Nicaraguans have had someone in their family go to the front to defend the country or have lost a

UNION TALK

relative in the war. And Nicaraguans feel the economic price of the war since 60 percent of the national budget has to go for defense. Without the war, that money would be used to feed and educate the Nicaraguan people and help develop the country.

But in the face of this, Nicaraguans are united against the U.S.-backed contras and are fighting to advance the gains they've already made.

One of the questions I was asked most in Nicaragua was, "What are U.S. citizens doing to stop their government from continuing to aid the contras?"

I was able to participate in the coffee brigade after being granted a 4-week leave of absence from my job in a garment shop in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Washington's contra war doesn't have much support among the U.S. people. That's certainly the case where I work. From the moment other workers heard about my planned trip, discussions began. I got a lot of support

when I explained that it's important for U.S. working people to travel to Nicaragua and see for themselves how the revolution has changed the lives of workers and farmers there and also to see the effects of the U.S.-run war.

I said it's also important to let the Nicaraguan people know that the majority of U.S. working people don't support our government's war policy. Most workers agreed with this. Many felt that even though they weren't in a position to go to Nicaragua, they thought it was great that someone from the plant was going.

People asked about the history of Nicaragua and why it's such a poor country. Others wanted to know why Washington is pursuing the contra war. Most stated that Nicaragua posed no threat to the United States.

Before leaving for Nicaragua, I made a brief presentation on the trip at a union meeting.

One worker wanted to know why anybody would want to go there to help when there are so many homeless and jobless in the United States. One reason is that the Nicaraguan government is different than the U.S. government.

In Nicaragua, the government puts the needs of the majority — the workers and peasants — first. Health care is free, farmers are getting land, and the workers are building and strengthening their unions.

Internationalist volunteers who come to Nicaragua participate in that process. That's a sharp contrast to this country where the government is cutting much needed social services, farmers are being forced off the land, and factories are being shut down. "I guess it's better to go to

a war-torn country than to be working here," one worker said.

Upon my return everyone wanted to know how it went. Several had seen Nicaraguan coffee harvesters on the evening news and were excited that I had participated. They wanted to know how many countries the volunteers had come from. My trip also received coverage in local newspapers.

Although no one openly said I was kind of crazy for going, I think there were some discussions of that nature. One woman said, "Some people say, 'Why would she want to do a thing like that?' But I told them that if I didn't have the kids I'd love to go and do that."

Another woman asked for information on how to sign up for a brigade.

I gave another report to a union meeting when I came back. A lunch-time slideshow is planned that will give me a chance to summarize some of what I learned.

Overall, I think the response to the brigade says loud and clear, "U.S. workers aren't interested in another Vietnam-type war in Central America." What I am finding is that rather than being pro-war, workers are "pro-peace" with Nicaragua. Instead of fighting this heroic people, my coworkers would rather learn about Nicaragua and encourage solidarity.

Ellie Beth Brady is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 347 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

How U.S. unionist aided Matagalpa coffee harvest

The following article appeared in the March 28 *Dominion Post*, which is published in Morgantown, West Virginia. It was one of two articles reporting on garment worker Ellie Beth Brady's recent trip to Nicaragua as part of a brigade to harvest coffee.

BY P. KAY NOTTINGHAM

The first night Ellie Beth Brady of Westover arrived at the farm near Matagalpa, Nicaragua, she and 28 other North Americans were herded from their pickup truck into a barracks where they prepared for evacuation.

Contra activity had been reported.

As it turned out, her party didn't have to leave. She didn't see any contra rebels that night, but she did hear gunfire.

"It was shocking," she said. "I thought I would be scared, but I had a lot of confidence in the Nicaraguans. They seemed to put a high priority on keeping us safe."

Brady was in Nicaragua to help campesinos (peasants) harvest coffee beans, the chief export crop.

Her day began at 4:30 a.m. After a breakfast of beans and rice in a state

kitchen, she would walk "a couple of miles" to a mountainous area where she would pick beans alongside peasants and Sandinistas, who carried guns for protection.

Brady explained that Contra rebels are raiding coffee fields to prevent portions of exportation dollars from going to the Sandinista government for defense.

Peak picking hours are between 6:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., before the temperature reaches into the 90s under afternoon sun.

Nights, however, are different. Thirty-to 40-degree nights are common.

Lunch break begins when two oxen carrying a cart of beans and rice arrive at a central location in the field. The peasants [she] worked with ate their beans and rice on a tortilla, only.

Brady and her crew ate their beans and rice from mess kit utensils.

"They think you're kind of weird [for using utensils], but they're glad you're there," she said.

Picking lasts about 1½ hours after lunch.

The group returned to their living area at about 3 p.m. to sort coffee beans. The red-der and higher grade of beans are exported.

The lower grade of beans are kept inside Nicaragua.

Peasants pick about 300 pounds of coffee beans daily and receive about 1,800 córdobas for their efforts. Brady and her North American companions picked about 30 pounds a day. The money that Brady would have received went into a special fund that will be used next year to build a day-care center for the farm.

Dinner — again beans and rice — was served at about 6 p.m.

Brady and her group would return to their barracks after dinner, where they slept eight to a room, to write in their notebooks by candlelight or "try to wash up." Two bulbs in the hallway was the only source of light.

The same pattern continued six days a week. Occasionally, two members of the group would remain behind to wash clothes — on stones. Clothes were stiff without fabric softener or dryer sheets, but they were clean.

Sunday, however, was different.

Brady would walk 2½ hours, one way, into the nearest town for a meal in a restaurant, which cost about \$1 in American dollars, and discussions with Nicaraguans and

North Americans. She met 30 people from the United States, including a former dairy farmer from New Mexico. Brady said the dairy farmer came to Nicaragua after his outrage at the U.S. government order to kill dairy cattle in an effort to halt the overproduction of milk. He went to California, she said, where he solicited financial help to fund a 12-month project in Nicaragua — artificially inseminating a stronger strain of dairy cattle to help beef up nutrition.

Three days before the end of her three weeks in Nicaragua, Brady met with government leaders, health workers and members of a farmer's union, an agriculture worker's union and a telecommunications worker's union.

From the meetings, Brady said she learned that while life in Nicaragua may seem tough compared to standards she is accustomed to, the Nicaraguans are better off today than they were even five years ago. For instance, a case of polio hasn't been reported in three years. A woman's organization has been formed to insure that women get jobs, get paid for their jobs and be recognized as productive human beings.

The work was hard, the living conditions were not the greatest, but Brady says she is ready for another work brigade.

LETTERS

Ben Linder-I

We met Ben Linder on a plane from Miami to Managua, Nicaragua, a few years ago. We were all going to Nicaragua, like tens of thousands of other Americans, to find out for ourselves about the revolution that had taken place there.

Ben had just graduated from college with a degree in engineering, and he wanted to put his skills to use in a way that would contribute to people's basic needs. He found a home in Nicaragua.

Since that time, Ben had been working on hydroelectric projects to provide light and electricity to communities that never had it before. In a letter, he explained, "There is a truly beautiful feeling of rebuilding a new society. There is knowledge that anything can be done. But it is always prefaced by 'if the U.S. would stop the aggression.'"

Ben also wrote about the danger of being killed by the contras. The fact that he was working in a war zone reflects his courage and conviction, not, as the U.S. government suggests, that he ignored their warnings.

Ben Linder's name will now be

added to the 20,000 Nicaraguans and [nine] internationalists murdered by the U.S.-directed and -financed mercenaries.

Every American should be outraged, as we are, by the fact that Ben was killed by soldiers on the U.S. payroll.

So that no more Americans or Nicaraguans die, we must all demand an immediate end to all U.S. support for these contra terrorists.

Diana Scalera

Beth Katz

New York, New York

Ben Linder-II

Ben Linder, a 27-year-old mechanical engineer from Portland, Oregon, had his life and work cut short when the U.S.-trained contras gunned him down. He was targeted for helping to bring electrification to Nicaragua's rural poor.

I used to run into Ben from time to time while working on the *Militant's* Managua bureau.

Ben not only collaborated with the Nicaraguan power and light company, but also with the circus workers. He was a natural for this as he was a terrific unicyclist and had the broadest, toothiest smile

imaginable. Ben made quite a sensation when that toothy smile went behind clown makeup and he pedaled through town protesting Washington's latest atrocities with other circus workers.

Ben's sense of both hard work and play will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Militant readers can pay special tribute to his internationalist efforts by building more massive protests like the two held April 25 and by participating in one of the many harvest or technical brigades headed to Nicaragua.

Jane Harris

Jersey City, New Jersey

Northwest Airlines

An article by Isabel Wilkerson in the March 20 *New York Times* describes problems at the Detroit airport since the Northwest-Republic merger October 1 last year. The article then blames employees for these horror stories.

The truth is that Northwest went into the merger without properly preparing for it. The schedules are impossible, and there are not enough employees to meet the flights. The result of all this is unsafe conditions on the ramp and poor service to Northwest custom-

ers. During the busiest times of the day, baggage handlers hurry to flights with passenger baggage, mail, and freight before departure. Usually there are only three employees to cover a flight.

Because of the lack of a transition agreement, Northwest is as inconsiderate to its employees as it is to its customers. The pay differential has made many employees unhappy. Some baggage handlers are making \$15 an hour, compared with others working part-time at \$6 an hour.

The worst mudslinging of all is the unfounded accusation that a "disgruntled employee" tampered with an aircraft. It is obvious, though, who has profited from these types of accusations: those who do not want a united work force on the ground.

Representation elections are currently taking place. If the International Association of Machinists wins, there will be one union on the ground, 20,000 strong. Clerical workers, ticket agents, and reservationists will join mechanics, baggage handlers, and aircraft cleaners to create the type of union needed to face these chaotic times in the airline industry.

Dale Folenauer

Prior Lake, Minnesota

Divestment

Yale University has notified the Texaco, Mobil, and Chevron oil companies that it will divest itself of their stock. The reason for this move was the pooling system by which these companies share refining services and products with the South African government. Exxon is no longer involved in such arrangements.

The university has been under a great deal of pressure by anti-apartheid activists to divest from South Africa, something that Yale has refused until now to do.

While the move does represent a modest victory by anti-apartheid forces in breaking the shell of Yale's intransigence, it does not mean any change by Yale in its stance toward divestment. In a recent meeting of the trustees on April 11, no further divestment was announced.

Peter Krala

New Haven, Connecticut

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

U.S.-imposed regime in Grenada to dismiss 1,800 public workers

BY MALIK MIAH

The U.S.-imposed government of Grenada is pushing ahead with plans to lay off 1,800 public workers over the next year.

These layoffs will eliminate more than one-quarter of the country's 7,000 government employees. The small east Caribbean island has a population of some 115,000.

Unemployment in Grenada is already estimated to have reached 40 percent. Under the previous government — the People's

Interview with Grenadian youth leader Terry Marryshow. See pages 8-9.

Revolutionary Government (PRG) led by Maurice Bishop — joblessness had been reduced to less than 15 percent.

Defending the layoffs, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize recently declared, "Retrenchment in the public service is not a matter of choice. It is a need and vital necessity for the country to survive."

The Blaize government has also flatly refused to discuss demands by three public employees' unions for a wage increase. It claims that it can't even meet the current salaries.

The devastating social impact that the proposed 1,800 dismissals will have on the island is already creating a government crisis. On April 13 three cabinet members — Francis Alexis, George Brizan, and Tilman Thomas — resigned. All three stated disagreement with the layoffs.

Alexis and Thomas were outspoken opponents of Bishop's government and its social programs throughout the 1979-1983 revolution. Brizan held a post in the PRG but quickly embraced the U.S.-imposed regime following the October 1983 invasion.

In preparation for elections in December 1984 to legitimize the government it had installed, Washington sponsored a new capitalist political party, the New National Party. The NNP patched together Blaize's longstanding Grenada National Party with

previously rival capitalist and middle-class political forces around Alexis, Thomas, and Brizan.

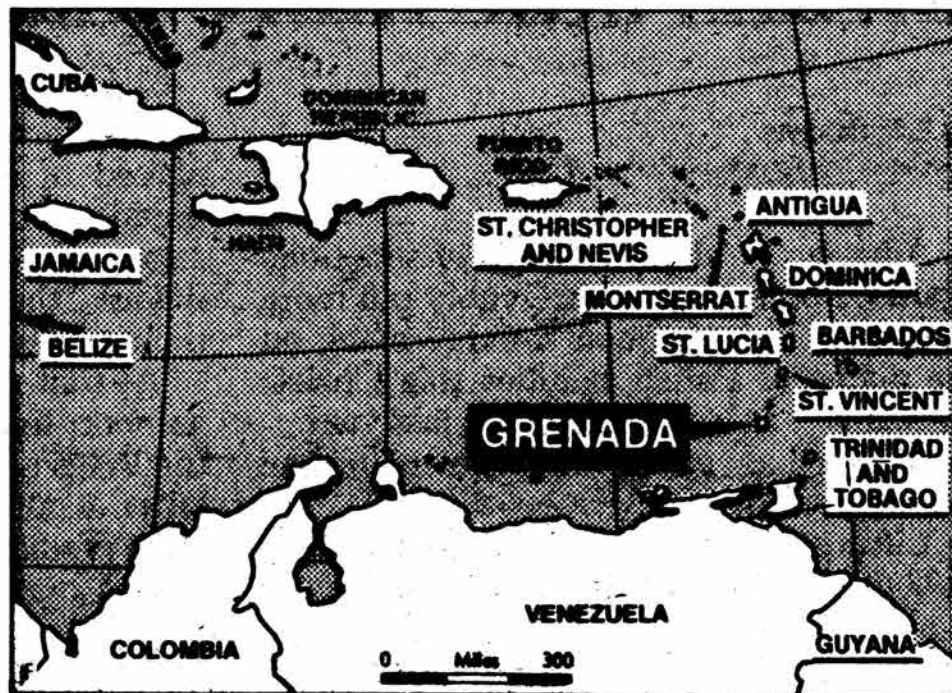
In this way, Washington successfully avoided the political embarrassment of a divided race in which a plurality could have been won by Eric Gairy, whose corrupt dictatorship had been toppled by the popular 1979 revolution. The NNP won 14 of 15 parliamentary seats.

But the NNP's credibility has been undermined since 1984 by worsening economic and social conditions and failure to bring the "prosperity" promised by its U.S. sponsors. Alexis, Brizan, and Thomas now hope to reap the political benefits from Blaize's growing unpopularity.

The only political organization in Grenada that opposes U.S. domination and defends the interests of working people is the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. The MBPM has spoken out against the NNP's steady dismantling of the vestiges of education, health, and other social programs established under the PRG.

In a telephone interview with the *Militant*, from St. George's, MBPM leader Kendrick Radix — a former member of the PRG cabinet — said that "the working people's right to employment is being steadily eroded" by the U.S.-installed regime. "People are seeing very real hardships."

Radix contrasted this situation to the years of the PRG, when the social and economic conditions of the Grenadian people



were improving year by year.

Although some unions have protested the regime's layoff plans and other cutbacks, there have so far been no strikes or street protests.

The U.S. government and its Grenadian backers have worked hard since October 1983 to housebreak the unions. Proimperialist bureaucrats, however, have failed

in their efforts to take over the labor movement lock, stock, and barrel.

Their attempts were blocked once again April 4, when Anslem De Bourg — a well-known supporter of the PRG — was elected president of the Grenada Trade Union Council, which groups the island's unions. De Bourg is president of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union.

Racist killer of Asian acquitted

BY MORRIS STARSKY

CINCINNATI — Ronald Ebens, the admitted murderer of Vincent Chin, was acquitted May 1 of violating Chin's civil rights. Following an eight-day trial, the jury arrived at its verdict in 10 hours.

The case goes back five years. On the night of June 19, 1982, Chin, a Chinese American, was celebrating his upcoming wedding with friends in a suburban Detroit bar. Ronald Ebens, an unemployed auto plant foreman, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, were also at the bar.

Ebens began directing racist remarks at Chin, calling him a "Chink" and a "Nip." Witnesses quoted him as saying it is Asians' fault that "we're out of work."

This provoked a confrontation, and bar employees threw Chin, Ebens, and Nitz out.

Ebens got a baseball bat from his stepson's car and pursued Chin. He caught him and beat him mercilessly with the bat. Chin died four days later.

Ebens and Nitz were charged with second-degree murder, but in a scandalous plea bargain, they were allowed to plead guilty to manslaughter. They were each fined \$3,850 and given three years probation.

Explaining this sentence, the judge said Ebens and Nitz weren't "the kind of people you put in jail."

Angry protests by Asian Americans and others forced the federal government into the case. Finally this led to Ebens being convicted of violating Chin's civil rights. He was sentenced to a 25-year prison term.

However, an appeals court threw out the conviction on legal-technical grounds.

When a federal attorney reinstituted the case, the defense won a change of venue to Cincinnati on grounds that the publicity surrounding the case meant they could not get a fair trial in Detroit.

The American Citizens for Justice, a

support group for Chin, worked to build pressure for a conviction. It established a court watch to try to ensure the government would prosecute the case vigorously.

At the opening of the trial, Cincinnati's Asian-American community held a public vigil demanding conviction for this racist murderer.

Members of the jury that brought in the not-guilty verdict refused to discuss their decision with the media. At the trial the defense presented the crooked argument that what had happened was simply a drunken brawl between bar patrons.

James Shimoura of Detroit, a spokesper-

son for the American Citizens for Justice, said he was angered by the verdict. "I will never accept it," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, it was a racial killing."

Gene Goto of the Cincinnati-based Roundtable of Americans of Asian Descent said the verdict showed people are still not conscious of the racism directed against Asian Americans. "We need to begin educating people that there is strong anti-Asian sentiment in this country," he said.

Ebens still faces a civil lawsuit filed by the Chin estate. Last month, his stepson agreed to pay \$65,500 in settlement of a similar suit.

Grenada youth leader to tour United States

Youth leader Terry Marryshow from Grenada will speak in Brooklyn, New York, May 16. He will discuss current political developments in Grenada and the Caribbean Basin.

Marryshow is general secretary of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation in Grenada and a leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. He has served as the Caribbean representative for the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Marryshow graduated from medical school in Cuba, where he was a leader of Grenadian youths studying in that country. He is now fighting the undemocratic move by the U.S.-imposed government in Grenada to prevent him from practicing medicine in Grenada on political grounds.

In addition to this New York City meeting, Marryshow will speak in several other cities during his brief visit to the United States during the last two weeks of May.

The Brooklyn meeting is sponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement Support Group, in cooperation with the Grenada Foundation. The meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m., at Medgar Evers College, 1150 Carrol St.

Roving pickets shut down South Dakota packing plant

BY DIANE SHUR

OMAHA, Neb. — Roving pickets from Iowa have closed down the John Morrell & Co. meat-packing plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 1142 have been on strike at Morrell's plant in Sioux City, Iowa, since March 9.

Local 1142 had earlier rejected a concession contract that would have cut wages. But union members decided to continue working and press the company to negotiate further. The strike began when Morrell arbitrarily fired several unionists. The company has since restarted production with scabs.

Local 1142 set up roving pickets outside the South Dakota Morrell plant in the middle of the night on May 1. This effectively shut down production, as members of UFCW Local 304A honored the picket line. The company responded by advertising in the papers for scabs.

On May 4, several hundred unionists

from both Morrell plants blocked the main gates of the South Dakota plant to prevent scabs from entering.

Afterward Morrell went to court and was awarded a temporary restraining order limiting pickets to 25. The company charged in an affidavit that several acts of violence had taken place outside the South Dakota plant.

Local 304A President Dennis Foster responded by saying he was proud of the union members and did not think the situation outside the plant was bad. Local 304A in the meantime has voted to continue honoring Local 1142's roving picket line.

Local 304A members on two occasions last August also honored picket lines set up outside their plant by UFCW members on strike at Morrell's Arkansas City, Kansas, plant. At the time, a federal judge ordered the union members back to work, but a higher court ruled that sympathy strikes cannot be stopped by an injunction. The Arkansas City strike ended earlier this year.